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Travel pg 36

Strange places for a little shut-eye



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VANCOUVER • WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2008 metronews.ca

Celebrity Buzz

Aniston gets some dating advice



pg 42

UBC students have no plan to stop Shinerama

FUNDRAISING The University of British Columbia Student Union has no plans to stop their cystic fibrosis fundraising after the student association at Carlton University discontinued its efforts on the basis that the disease mostly affects white males.

UBC Student Union president Michael Duncan said that although there has been no official discussion on it yet, there's currently no plan to discontinue their Shinerama fundraiser for CF.

"There may be other fundraising that is a better use of the students' time, but that doesn't mean we would discontinue this fundraising," he said.

Duncan said he does understand the decision made by Carlton students that the charity is not diverse enough for continued support.

"They definitely want something all encompassing," said Duncan. "They should be focusing their efforts on charities that represent the student population."

ETHAN ROTBERG

/FOR METRO VANCOUVER
MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 6

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vancouverletters@metronews.ca



Please recycle

Local pg 4

Canuck Place Day of Giving



Leon Feizo-Gas shown at the Scotiabank Dance Centre downtown yesterday. He is one of 18 dancers terminated by Ballet B.C.

Ballet B.C. fires all staff

FERNANDO CARNEIRO
fernando.carneiro@metronews.ca

There's no one left standing — on their tippy-toes or otherwise — at Ballet B.C. as all 38 dancers and staff were terminated.

The Ballet B.C.'s board of directors said yesterday that "flagging subscriptions and low ticket sales" are to blame. The board called the move a "reorganization."

Leon Feizo-Gas said the dancers were in rehearsal when the announcement was made.

"There were a lot of

Decades of dance

Ballet B.C. opened in January 1986. It consisted of 18 classically trained ballet dancers and choreographers from around the world.

tears," said Feizo-Gas, who was in his fourth season with Ballet B.C. "I was shocked. It really caught us all off guard."

Graeme Barrit, chairman of the board of directors and president of the Vancouver-based company said, "the first step was not taken lightly."

"In no way does it mean Ballet British Columbia is going out of business. We anticipate emerging from this current situation as a stronger company."

Feizo-Gas, whose girlfriend was also a dancer at Ballet B.C., said it's important for the artists and choreographers to stay in shape and keep dancing.

"In terms of moral support, I think it's very important we stay connected to each other as dancers, as a group," he added.

The one show still on is the presentation of the Nutcracker in late December.

"We are asking every-

one to go and buy tickets for Nutcracker," Barrit said. "If we sell out Nutcracker, Ballet B.C. will survive."

The board is also asking the federal, provincial and municipal governments for help, as well as its private sector and individual supporters.

To Feizo-Gas, this could mean having to move away from Vancouver.

"That is something that needs to be considered by more than just myself," he said. "If I had a choice, I would rather be a dance artist in Vancouver. It would sadden me to leave."

VANCOUVER

2010 Games

City plans to avoid Olympic traffic chaos

PLAN To avoid congestion of Olympic proportions, city officials yesterday released a draft of temporary changes to the city's road network leading up to and during the Games.

More than 250,000 visitors and nearly 40,000 media, athletes and volunteers are expected in the city during the Games — about half of Vancouver's population.

As a result, pedestrian and vehicle traffic is expected to increase by 30 per cent.

The plan lays out suggestions for priority lanes for Olympic traffic, pedestrian-only and security zones, parking restrictions and transit-capacity improvements.

There will also likely be changes to rush-hour parking and right-of-way turns to improve traffic flow.

Pedestrian malls could be made on Granville, Robson, Mainland and Hamilton streets, and priority roads for Olympic traffic on Broadway, Hastings, West Georgia, Seymour and Howe streets.

Security zones are suggested around the Olympic Village and Vancouver Convention Centre.

City staff will meet with business, transportation and community groups for feedback on the plan.

KRISTEN THOMPSON
/METRO VANCOUVER

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INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 4.5-star all-inclusive accom.

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B.C. Ferries drops fuel surcharge

In an early holiday gift to travellers, B.C. Ferries announced it's eliminating its fuel surcharge. The extra fee will end on Dec. 5 on minor routes and Dec. 19 on major routes. Fares will also be reduced on many runs in December and January. **METRO VANCOUVER**

3

Local



Arrest made in roller-snatchings

Police have made an arrest in the case of an in-line-skating purse-snatcher who was terrorizing women in Surrey. RCMP received four complaints from Oct. 5 to Nov. 19 of women being robbed by a man wearing in-line skates. James Andrew Buhs faces two charges of robbery. **METRO VANCOUVER**



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News in brief

CHALLENGE B.C. has filed a legal brief with the U.S. Court of Appeals after the Environmental Protection Agency denied the California Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standard for Vehicles. B.C. introduced legislation in April that allows adoption of California's standards to help reduce auto emissions from new vehicles.

ROBBERIES Police in Surrey are advising women to travel in pairs or groups after two violent robberies. Early yesterday and Monday evening, two women were robbed at gunpoint in the Guildford Mall parking lot. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Watch Food bank donations are dropping just as demand spikes at metronews.ca/canada
Movies showtimes, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies

25,000 greet the Aga Khan

Spiritual leader praises Canada's charity work at stop in city

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

The spiritual leader of 15 million Shia Ismaili Muslims and head of the world's largest NGO, the Aga Khan, thanked Canada for our contribution to global charity and goodwill during a trip to Vancouver.

Yesterday, around 25,000 people descended upon B.C. Place for a religious gathering, while others amassed outside the Pan Pacific Hotel where he met with Premier Gordon Campbell.

Rahim Kanani said Vancouverites are privileged the Aga Khan has chosen to come here.

"It's a great blessing to see him walk by," he said.

Kanani Almas, who was raised in Uganda, said she was "fortunate" to have gone to an Aga Khan school.

"(I want) to show my appreciation to him. And he's our spiritual leader so this is



Premier Gordon Campbell, left, escorts the Aga Khan into the Pan Pacific Hotel yesterday.

a spiritual experience."

At a private luncheon at the Pan Pacific, the Aga Khan thanked Canada for welcoming various diasporas and contributing globally to the values of his Aga Khan Development Network, which aims to improve education and living stan-

Golden jubilee

• The Aga Khan, 70, was travelling across Canada celebrating his golden jubilee.

dards in developing nations. "Not only because you have received these (peo-

ple), but you have given them the wherewithal to return to their country and bring back ... the values of Canada."

Premier Gordon Campbell said the Aga Khan is the model for tolerance that B.C. and Canada strive to embody.

Man dies after vehicle hits school

FATALITY One man has died and police detained a second man after their vehicle slammed into a Vancouver high school yesterday.

The two men, in their early 20s, were driving a white Ford Mustang when they nearly collided with another vehicle at the intersection of Kerr Street and East 49th Avenue before striking the south side of Killarney High School just before 5 a.m.

"It appears speed did play a role," said Const. Jana McGuinness. "However, there is no indication that alcohol was involved."

One man was pinned between the car and the school and later died of his injuries. A second man was seen running from the scene as police arrived. He was tracked by a police dog and detained. The man is in hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

ETHAN ROTBERG/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER

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4 local

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Solace and support

Children's hospice seeks comfort at end of life

FERNANDO CARNEIRO
fernando.carneiro@metronews.ca

Deedee Woodward's son lived for 21 days. Two years later it still hurts, she said, but the memories of their short time together are pleasant and tender — even happy.

Brayden spent his last 15 days at Canuck Place — a children's hospice in Vancouver that aims to enhance the quality of life of the child and their family.

"They helped us turn a very sad situation into one that leaves me feeling very lucky and thankful," Woodward said.

Canuck Place opened in 1995 as the first free-standing children's hospice in North America. It's a charity that cares for more than 350 children with life-threatening illnesses in a home-like environment.

When Brayden's dad, Ken, said he wanted to fish with his son, staff brought in two special tanks with fish and set up chairs in the yard.

"It was a very special



Ken and his son Brayden Woodward play in the Canuck Place yard.

Fundraising

- Donations to Canuck Place can be made online at canuckplace.org or over the phone at 604-731-4847.
- The radiothon is on the TEAM 1040, Talk 1410, QMFM 103.5 and The BEAT 94.5.

moment," Woodward said. "As a mother and wife, it made me so happy to see Ken and Brayden's dream

come true knowing this was their only chance."

CEO Filomena Nalewajek said tomorrow's radiothon during the Day of Giving is vital. "We rely on donations to a significant degree," she said. "If our funding goes down, beds close."

This year's goal is to raise \$150,000.

"We are thankful to the general community that has not only kept us going, but also helped us grow."

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A 34-year-old former elementary school teacher pleaded not guilty to 27 charges of Internet luring of children in a St. Stephen court yesterday. The RCMP have laid 16 more charges against Jude O'Reilly. The Mounties allege the charges involve as many as 25 young people. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada



Retiree finds name on watch list

A 66-year-old former school secretary from Vancouver Island says she has had to shelve her retirement dream of travelling the world because her name has appeared on an international security watch list. Despite recent help from the RCMP, Glenda Hutton, who has no criminal record, has been unable to get her name removed from the list. She was recently rejected from crossing the border into the U.S.

CBC NEWS ONLINE

Cystic fibrosis not 'diverse' enough

Carleton University student group drops CF support because disease 'only' hits whites, men

DEREK GORDANIER
Metro Canada



An Ottawa university students' group has voted to discontinue its annual fundraiser for cystic fibrosis, on the basis that the disease mostly affects "white people, and primarily men," and is not "diverse" enough for stu-

Group defends decision

• CUSA president Brittany Smyth defended the decision yesterday, saying that discussion before the vote focused

more on considering a new charity than the issues of the race and gender that the disease strikes.

dents' continued support.

Although some student leaders yesterday downplayed the reference to race

and gender, the Carleton University Students Association's (CUSA) resolution includes a line saying that

"whereas" CF is a disease "recently revealed to only affect white people, and primarily men" CUSA will discontinue its 'Shinerama' fund raiser, which has raised nearly \$1 million.

Meera Chander, who seconded the motion, said some students had suggested during Orientation Week that CF did not affect a broad enough range of peo-

ple to accurately reflect Carleton's makeup.

"(CF) only affects a certain demographic of the population and we feel that we should be focusing more on a local charity ... that applies to the demographics of Carleton University," Chander said.

But Cathleen Morrison with the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation said that

the students' assertions "are incorrect."

CF is the most common fatal genetic disease affecting young Canadians and it doesn't discriminate among gender or skin colour, said Morrison, CCF's chief executive.

"Lots of people who are dark skinned have CF, just the same as someone who has light skin," Morrison said.

Cabinet members to have expenses cut back

POLITICS Ottawa will slash spending by cabinet ministers and other politicians in the wake of media revelations about lavish foreign trips, a top official said yesterday.

Kory Teneyck, the chief spokesman for Prime Minister Stephen Harper, said the Conservative government must show Canadians it can manage the nation's finances in times of economic crisis.

"We will be talking about the need to restrain discretionary spending and that will start at the top," he said, predicting "lots of complaints" from politicians.

"This will be much more deep and much more significant than anyone has speculated to date."

The Toronto Star yesterday

day said former Agriculture Minister Chuck Strahl had taken eight aides to Geneva for trade talks in 2006 on a trip that cost \$84,000. Former Environment



Stephen Harper

Minister John Baird took five staff members to Bali last year and racked up a \$61,000 bill.

The opposition Liberals, who accuse Harper of mismanaging the crisis, seized on the report.

"It seems that the only jobs that these Conservatives are willing to protect is in luxury air travel for their ministers," legislator Scott Brison told Parliament.

Government ministers can rest easy in the knowledge that their salaries will not be cut. Teneyck said that "might be a little extreme."

REUTERS

Edmonton From court to Top Cop



Staff Sgt. Jamie Ewatski speaks to media at the Edmonton police headquarters about the Top Cop Award, which he received yesterday. Ewatski, 48, was convicted of assault earlier this year after a man claimed he was pepper-sprayed and arrested in his home without a warrant in December 2004.

Alberta meteor could weigh up to 10 tonnes: Expert

SPACE A University of Calgary researcher has discovered that the spectacular meteor that lit the skies across the prairies last Thursday weighs approximately 10 tonnes. U of C expert Alan Hildebrand also believes the large fireball may have left chunks of the shattered space rock in a region in western Saskatchewan. He is leading a team of researchers on the hunt for the meteor just south of Battle River, Sask.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

News in brief

ECONOMY Working Canadians are turning to food banks in record numbers and the demand is set to increase as the global financial crisis hits harder and people take lower-paying jobs, Food Banks Canada said yesterday.

REUTERS

THIS HOLIDAY, EVEN TRAVEL MUGS ARE GOING GREEN.

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The Cheer is Here.



Church upset at German man selling Jesus chocolates

Germany's churches criticized a businessman yesterday for selling thousands of Jesus chocolates. Frank Oynhausen set up his "Sweet Lord" chocolate Jesus-making business saying he wanted to restore some traditional religious values to Christmas in Germany. **REUTERS**

World



Keeping Mussolini's name alive

An Italian right-wing party is offering 1,500 euros (\$2,400) to parents who name their babies after wartime fascist dictator Benito Mussolini or his wife Rachele, saying their names are under threat. The MSI-Fiamma Tricolore party, the descendant of Mussolini's fascist party, said the initiative in the poor, southern region of Basilicata was meant to keep alive names "at risk of extinction" and pay tribute to the movement's roots. **REUTERS**

Man sentenced to life for raping daughters

A British man was sentenced to life in prison yesterday for repeatedly raping his two daughters over a 25-year period, fathering seven children by them during years of violence and abuse.

A court in Sheffield, northern England, heard that the 56-year-old took pleasure in the harm he did to his daughters, whom he began abusing at the age of eight, threatening them with violence if they refused to have sex with him, Britain's Press Association reported.

The violence, abuse and incest — the man made his daughters pregnant a total of 19 times — recall the case of Josef Fritzl, the Austrian rapist who kept his

"When either one of his victims tried to end the sexual abuse, he threatened to kill them and their children."

Nicholas Campbell, lawyer

daughter locked in a dungeon for 24 years, fathering seven children by her.

"When either one of his victims tried to end the sexual abuse, he threatened to kill them and their children, and when they threatened to tell police, he said they would not be believed," lawyer Nicholas Campbell told the court.

The convicted man's son described him as having a "Jekyll and Hyde" personality that could turn to anger in a split second.

The court heard that the

father would hold his younger daughter's face close to a fire, singeing her eyes, if she refused to do what he told her to, and at other times he held a knife to her throat, threatening to kill her.

"The victims were too frightened to tell anyone, even their mother," Campbell said. "The defendant played Russian roulette as to whether there would be complications in the pregnancies and with the health of his daughters."

REUTERS

Guatemala **Protesting violence**



Activists dressed as mimes perform a sketch about violence against women during a march to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women in Guatemala City yesterday.

News in brief

THAILAND Thousands of bemused tourists were left stranded yesterday in Bangkok after anti-government protesters stormed the terminal of one of Asia's busiest airports.

SPENDING U.S. president-elect Barack Obama vowed yesterday to cut billions of dollars from wasteful government programs to fight a growing mountain of debt. **REUTERS**

U.S. Fed to spend \$800B on debts

ECONOMY The U.S. Federal Reserve unveiled an \$800-billion plan yesterday to buy mortgage-related debt and back consumer loans as it tries to revive the lending market and steer the global economy away from a deep recession. **REUTERS**



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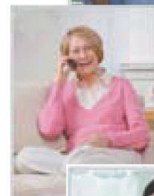
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Comment & Views

Comment

Moon's spin on hate

Professor recommends repealing section of rights act

The WestView

Paul Sullivan

Journalist & media consultant

My hero is a guy called Richard Moon. Other people have their Sidney Crosbys or Beyoncé's, but I want Richard Moon's autograph. I'm thinking of mounting his picture on my office wall. He's the man.

Who, you ask, is Richard Moon? Well, he's a professor at the University of Windsor who has written a report, released this week, recommending that the Canadian Human Rights Commission no longer investigate complaints relating to hate speech.

Who cares about that, you snort? You should, as the Human Rights Commission and all its little provincial sprouts make it their business to monitor

your every thought, word and deed and decide whether or not you're playing by the rules.

The only problem is the commissions make the rules with zero input from me or you and they have a tendency to get zealous in their defence of the allegedly offended.

I've already written here about the sad case of Mark Steyn, the neo-conservative Maclean's journalist who was dragged through an interminable investigation hosted by the B.C. Human Rights Commission for the crime of writing a peevish piece about Islam, only after the determined complainant was turned down by the Canadian and Ontario commissions.

But not before the heads of both the CHRC and its Ontario counterpart, Jennifer Lynch and Barbara

Hall, respectively, took public shots at Steyn. Even if they reluctantly concluded that they had no jurisdiction in the

matter, they couldn't resist using their bully pulpits to bring him down a peg.

Who do they think they are, journalists?

Anyway, my new hero was commissioned to

write a report in the wake of the Steyn furor, and I bet it spoiled more than one bureaucrat's day as his principle recommendation is to repeal the section of the Canadian Human Rights Act, Section 13, dealing with hate speech.

He was quick to point out we already have plenty of protection against hate speech. It's called the Criminal Code of Canada, which bans the willful promotion of hate. But that's not enough for the thought po-

lice, who have duplicated these provisions ad nauseam across the country, just in case someone has an errant thought.

But in this social networking age, every errant thought is posted on the Internet and the thought police are wearing themselves ragged trying to stem the tide.

So instead of trying to shut down hate-filled stupidity wherever it rears its head, destroying free and honest expression in the process, Moon offers the following common sense approach: "Find ways other than censorship to respond to expression that stereotypes and defames." Argument, debate, discussion, dialogue: Whatever you want to call it, it beats the kind of kangaroo court justice practised by human rights commissions.

Now, let's just hope someone doesn't complain to the human rights commission about Richard Moon.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting.

Even if they reluctantly concluded that they had no jurisdiction in the matter, they couldn't resist using their bully pulpits to bring him down a peg.



Letters

Canadian economy may be scary, but cartoon wasn't

What a racist comic depiction in Metro (Nov. 20) of Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean portrayed as a "spook." Sure, the Canadian economic forecast is "scary" and Stephen Harper has vague plans on responding to the challenge, but Michael de Adder's attempt at satire scraped the bottom of the barrel with this one. Not funny!

DIANNE WEDDERBURN, HALIFAX

Who is minding the country?, reader wonders

Re: Addressing an Elephant (Nov. 12)

Kudos to Paul Sullivan for bringing attention to one of the blocks to Canada as a great nation.

I have always wondered, who is minding the country? Certainly not the politicians or the prime minister. We allow a separatist party at the federal level bent on breaking up the country. Why is this not viewed as treason, and how did it get all the way to the federal level paid for by the taxpayers?

It just doesn't make sense to me!

CHARLOTTE M. BOWERING, SCARBOROUGH, ONT.

Don't pick on seniors for their driving habits

Re: Tougher Rules for Seniors? (Nov. 19)

Senior drivers respect the law more than younger drivers because their parents taught them the meaning of respect for others as well as good manners.

Being a senior doesn't mean we all drive our cars into telephone poles because our hair turning white made us go insane.

Senior drivers will soon outnumber those little yahoos on the road — who will the media blame then?

Could someone convey to Miss Williams that women my age (over 60) have the lowest accident stats?

CHRISTINE ARCAND GODIN, BOURGET, ONT.

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Word on the street: Do you think the North American auto industry deserves a government bailout?

Nadine Schiavone

age 21,
Vancouver

A: No. They're asking for way too much money to help a failing industry. They need to be making smart cars.

Steven Sunshine

age 24,
Vancouver

A: No. I think the money should go to better things — like health care or housing.

Sarah Massie

age 23,
Vancouver

A: No. If the heads of the car companies can fly in to ask for money on corporate jets, I think they can figure it out for themselves.

Kyle Button

age 24, Calgary

A: It's such a big part of our economy, and I don't think it would hurt anything — they certainly need it. The big question is how much and how soon?

Kelly Hoskins

age 29, Toronto

A: Yes. The reason for that is the government is implicit in the state of the economy.

metro life panel

Metro Life Panel

Results from the Canadian Metro Life Panel (441 respondents):

Yes: 19.8%
No: 68.3%
Don't know: 11.9%



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I'm for the company that won North American Car of the Year* in 2007 and 2008.

I'm for the company that won AJAC Award – Best New Small Car** in 2008 and 2009.

I'm for the winner of the 2008 Green Car of the Year¹.

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I'm for the company that offers more vehicles with 7 L/100 km (40 mpg) or better highway fuel economy.

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Saturn Aura

2007 North American Car of the Year (Hybrid shown)



Saturn Vue

2008 AJAC Award – Best New SUV/CUV
\$35,000–\$60,000
(Hybrid shown)



Pontiac Vibe

2009 AJAC Award – Best new small car over \$18,000



Chevrolet Malibu

2008 North American Car of the Year (Hybrid shown)



*Awarded by North American International Auto shows. 1. Chevrolet Tahoe Hybrid named 2008 Green Car of the Year by Green Car Journal editors. **2008 Best New Small Car awarded to Saturn Astra. 2009 Best New Small Car over \$18,000 awarded to Pontiac Vibe. †Based on GM Testing in accordance with approved Transport Canada Test methods. Your actual fuel consumption may vary.

American International Group Inc. chief executive Edward Liddy will receive \$1 US in salary this year and next, and there will be no bonuses for the company's top seven senior executives. Fifty more execs will also be locked out of pay raises in 2009. **REUTERS**

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Car sales up in September

New vehicles sold up by 2.9%

Despite troubles in the auto industry, Canadians bought a lot of new cars in September, helping to push up overall retail sales in the month by an unexpectedly strong 1.1 per cent from August.

New-car sales jumped 2.9 per cent in value terms in September and the number of vehicles sold also rose. The automotive sector as a whole — which encompasses used vehicles and parts and gasoline — rose 2.2 per cent.

Statistics Canada said yesterday the increase in retail sales was largely due to the first rise in new vehicle purchases since January.

Car dealers in Canada

forecast that 2008 will be the second or third best year on record for new vehicle sales, even as auto manufacturers complain of plummeting U.S. sales.

"All economists are eating some humble pie on this one as growth in total sales nearly tripled estimates."

Derek Holt

beat with their median forecast of a 0.3 per cent increase.

"In all frankness, all economists are eating some humble pie on this one as growth in total sales nearly tripled estimates, while growth in core sales ex autos quadrupled consensus predictions," said Derek Holt, economist at Scotia Capital. **REUTERS**

The September gain more than offset August's 0.3 per cent decline in retail sales and made economists look excessively down-

cast with their median forecast of a 0.3 per cent increase.

"In all frankness, all economists are eating some humble pie on this one as growth in total sales nearly tripled estimates, while growth in core sales ex autos quadrupled consensus predictions," said Derek Holt, economist at Scotia Capital. **REUTERS**

Airlines High skies for a low price



AirAsia Group CEO Tony Fernandes attends the launch of the new low-cost AirAsia X service in central London yesterday. AirAsia X, the low-cost, long-haul affiliate of AirAsia, is promoting a limited-time 99-pound flight between London Stansted and Kuala Lumpur International airports.

15,000 auto jobs to be lost through 2009

AUTOS Beleaguered automakers in Canada will wipe out at least 15,000 jobs and post staggering losses of more than \$3.1 billion this year and through 2009 before starting a recovery in 2010, according to the Conference Board of Canada.

The slowdown in the U.S. auto market, a shift to more fuel-efficient vehicles not built in Canada and a

strong dollar will continue to pummel automakers here for another year, the board said yesterday in its latest outlook for the sector.

"Canada's automotive sector has been battered by an unrelenting barrage of structural and macro-economic developments over the last two years, a trend that is unlikely to subside as 2009 approach-

es," board economist Sabrina Browarski said in the outlook report.

The board forecasts that losses will soar in 2009 to \$1.43 billion before the industry posts a profit of \$288 million in 2010 and \$743 million in 2011.

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Petro-Can joint venture unlikely: CEO

OIL Petro-Canada will not give up a stake in its oil-sands operations in order to acquire refining capacity to process the tar-like bitumen to be produced at its planned Fort Hills oil sands mine, its chief executive said yesterday.

Ron Brenneman said the company was not interested in forming a joint venture with a U.S. refiner that would dilute ownership of its oil sands assets.

It's more likely the company would buy or invest in a refiner, Brenneman said.

Both EnCana Corp. and Husky Energy Inc. have formed such ventures, surrendering half stakes in oil sands projects for an interest in U.S. refineries. This then allows them to avoid building expensive

upgraders to process their oil sands bitumen. **REUTERS**

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No stopping sales of luxury goods

The global financial crisis may be hurting sales, but luxury goods companies should see sales and profit rise into 2010, albeit less than current double-digit growth. It's expected to grow eight per cent this year, and six per cent in 2009 and 2010. **REUTERS**

Cisco shares fall on news of holiday shutdown

Shares of Cisco Systems Inc. were down six per cent to \$15.41 US on Nasdaq yesterday after the network equipment maker said it would shut down most of

its U.S. and Canadian business for five days as part of its previously announced plan to cut costs by more than \$1 billion.

Cisco spokesman Terry

Alberstein said in an e-mail that the shutdown planned from Dec. 29 through Jan. 2 would exclude critical teams such as technical assistance, chan-

nel partner and customer product ordering services.

The company, which is seen as a bellwether for the technology sector, announced the cost-cutting

target Nov. 5 when the company warned that revenue could fall as much as 10 per cent in the current quarter as the economic downturn spreads from

the United States to Europe and Asia.

Cisco shares have fallen more than 40 per cent from the start of 2008.

REUTERS

Rio Tinto to soldier on without BHP

MINING Global miner Rio Tinto Ltd. sees no need to raise equity and is confident of selling assets soon to pay off debt, its chairman said earlier today, a day after rival BHP Billiton Ltd. dropped its bid for the firm.

BHP's shock decision yesterday to pull its \$66 billion US bid sent Rio's London shares plunging by almost 40 per cent, raising concerns that Rio would struggle to sell assets and bring down its \$39 billion US in net debt during a severe global economic downturn.

But Rio chairman Paul Skinner, speaking at a scheduled business breakfast, said the group was comfortable with its financial position, dismissed market speculation that Rio would now need to raise equity and said it would make asset sales in the next few months.

"We now move on, we have a very strong company," he said.

"We are confident with our financial position. We have other ways of managing our debt."

Credit-rating agency Moody's immediately signalled a possible downgrade to Rio's high-investment-grade A3 rating, noting that asset sales would be a key focus of its rating review.

BHP Billiton cited Rio's debt position in scrapping its hostile bid approach, as well as sliding metals prices, the threat of global recession and demands from European competition regulators to sell off some iron ore and coal assets.

"The greater debt exposure of the combination, plus the difficulty of divesting assets, have increased the risks to shareholder value to an unacceptable level," BHP said in a statement. **REUTERS**

"We are confident with our financial position. We have other ways of managing debt."

Paul Skinner

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Business in brief

SHOPPING U.S. retailers are trying to assure customers that buying a gift card this holiday season is still safe amid a flurry of industry bankruptcies and store closures. Store gift cards

had become a popular option in recent years, boosting sales and profits at many a retailer when redeemed in the weeks following the holidays. But in a dismal selling environment in

which shoppers have cut spending and retailers have gone bankrupt, some shoppers are questioning whether gift cards are still safe. Retailer Eddie Bauer Holdings Inc. recently

sent an e-mail to its customers, citing a "hoax" e-mail it said was "intended to discourage consumers" from buying gift cards at its stores and other chains. **REUTERS**

Quarterly profit at BMO up 24%

EARNINGS Quarterly profit rose 24 per cent at Bank of Montreal, helped by tax recoveries, higher profit at its Canadian retail banking unit and new accounting rules, but the bank said yesterday that dividend increases are on

hold because of the murky economic outlook.

Analysts were split on whether the bank beat or missed profit expectations, but

several said the numbers were sufficiently solid to relieve investors.

The market had worried about large writedowns after bigger competitors Royal Bank of Canada and Toronto-Dominion Bank warned they would take quarterly charges for securities and trading losses.

BMO also announced a \$150 million preferred share issue yesterday afternoon, the third equity financing by a Canadian bank this week as financial institutions put greater emphasis on higher capital levels because of the financial crisis.

Keeping "elevated levels of capital" is appropriate in this environment, and growth in the bank's dividend is unlikely, BMO president and chief executive Bill Downe told a conference call.

The bank's \$2.80 per share annual dividend put it above the target payout ratio of 45 per cent to 55 per cent of earnings in the fourth quarter, so growth in the dividend is "not appropriate," Downe said.

But the current dividend level, which ballooned to eight per cent as the stock price fell, is suitable because of the bank's earning power, he added.

Canada's fourth-largest bank said that net income was \$560 million, or \$1.06 a share, in the three months ended Oct. 31.

That was up from a profit of \$452 million, or 87 cents a share, a year earlier. **REUTERS**

Goldman breaks off talks over Sanyo

Goldman Sachs has broken off talks with Panasonic Corp. on the possible sale of Goldman's stake in Sanyo Electric after the electronics maker proposed an offer below

the current stock price.

Panasonic, the world's largest maker of plasma TVs, said earlier this month that it planned to buy smaller rival Sanyo but had not agreed on a price

with Goldman and Sanyo's two other main shareholders.

Shares in Panasonic were down 2.7 per cent at 1,360 yen yesterday, underperforming the Tokyo

stock market's electrical machinery index, which fell 1.4 per cent. Sanyo was down 1.9 per cent at 153 yen.

"We have reached the decision that there is no

use in carrying out negotiations based on the current offer," Goldman Sachs spokeswoman Hiroko Matsumoto said.

Matsumoto said, however, that the next step is up

to Panasonic, in a possible sign that talks could be revived.

She declined to disclose the details of Panasonic's offer.

REUTERS

Web-based job hunting on the rise

INTERNET The economic crisis slamming firms across the globe has sparked a spike in usage of professional networks — Xing and LinkedIn are key sites — as people hedge against losing work and laid-off employees seek jobs.

Traffic on the world's top professional web networks has surged since the financial crisis started to make headlines, with top player, privately held LinkedIn, notching 25 per cent more registrations in September than forecast.

"Nobody has ever seen anything like this before," said Kevin Eyres, head of LinkedIn's operations in Europe. "Now we are growing by almost one new user each second."

Membership on LinkedIn has jumped to more than 31 million from 18 million at the start of the year, growing fastest in the financial services, media, education and technology fields, Eyres said.

Martin Olausson, director of the digital media strategies unit at research firm Strategy Analytics, estimated the size of the online professional social networking market at about \$170 million US this year.

Professional sites seek to distance themselves from social networks such as Facebook and MySpace with their more sober approach, and by giving members more control over their profiles. **REUTERS**

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Lacklustre Nikkei falls

MARKETS Japan's Nikkei average lost 1.3 per cent yesterday as the yen's advance against the dollar hit Sony Corp. and other exporters, with tech shares suffering on demand fears as the global economy worsens.

Though the market welcomed the U.S. Federal Reserve's massive new program to aid the beleaguered American consumer, a programme that helped the Dow and S&P 500 extend gains yesterday, many players noted that numerous problems remain and have yet to be adequately dealt with.

"The Fed appears to have moved quickly, but how soon will this policy actually have an impact? In a way, its scale underlines how serious the situation is," said Takashi Ushio, head of the investment strategy division at Marusan Securities.

"The problems of GM and Ford still remain, so there's still a lot of uncertainty."

The Fed said it will buy up to \$100 billion US of debt issued by government-sponsored mortgage enterprises Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Home Loan banks. It will also purchase up to \$500 billion of mortgage securities backed by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and Ginne Mae.

The benchmark Nikkei shed 108.27 points to 8,215.66, a day after rising 5.2 per cent for its biggest one-day gain in two weeks.

REUTERS

Indonesia approaches Australia for \$2B loan amidst downturn: Source

BORROWING Indonesia has approached wealthy neighbour Australia for a loan to help it fund vital infrastructure projects in the global economic downturn, an Indonesian government source said yesterday.

Jakarta is seeking a loan of about \$2 billion US, Australian newspapers said.

A three-man Indonesian team, including a senior adviser to Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati, met Australian Treasury officials on Monday to discuss

the terms of a loan, the Indonesian source told Reuters when asked to confirm the reports.

The source could not comment on the reported loan size.

An Indonesian Embassy spokesman in Canberra

said a meeting did take place, but refused to confirm details. The source said the meeting took place to discuss "capacity building."

No one at Indonesia's finance ministry was available for comment.

Indonesia will need around \$10.5 billion in budget finance this year. But financial turmoil is making it hard for the world's emerging economies to secure loans as international investors shy away from markets per-

ceived as high risk.

Indonesia, Southeast Asia's largest economy, has slashed its 2009 growth forecast from 6.3 per cent to 4.5 to five per cent next year, as economic conditions deteriorate globally.

REUTERS

Concordia president's vision for the university

Judith Woodsworth, who was installed as Concordia University's first female president Monday, says the university needs to boost its national profile to get beyond being known as "the second English university in Montreal." **MONTREAL GAZETTE**

13

Workology



Visiting India

Next week, six Canadian university presidents will travel to India to participate in a higher education summit sponsored by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the India Government.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Improving Canada's business DNA

Job Trends

ROBYN YOUNG
for Metro Canada



Tough economic times call for innovation and creativity.

That's why a recession might be the perfect time to think about starting your own business, say some of the country's business leaders.

While hundreds of thousands of workers across North America lost their jobs last week, Canadian entrepreneurs from across the country convened in Toronto for Entrepreneurship Week Canada.

They shared ideas about how to further grow their businesses and more generally, how to grow the entrepreneurial spirit in Canada.

At a leadership summit hosted by Impact Entrepreneurship Group, a student-led organization for young entrepreneurs, new and experienced entrepreneurs alike said an economic downturn is just the right time to push ahead with cutting-edge ideas.

"Adversity brings out innovation, so entrepreneurship is very much a real opportunity for employment," said Mark Rivers, founder and CEO of Presidents of Enterprising Organizations.

When times are tough, people look for new ways to support themselves and it's a good time to be creative, he said.



Kunal Gupta, founder of Impact Entrepreneurship Group and president and CEO of Polar Mobile, speaks to an aspiring entrepreneur at Impact's leadership summit Nov. 19, an event hosted by Impact for Entrepreneurship Week Canada.

Mark Romoff, president and CEO of Ontario Centres of Excellence, says entrepreneurship is independent of the economic climate.

"You need entrepreneurship and entrepreneurs when things are going well as much as you need it when things are going bad," he said.

Romoff would like to see entrepreneurship become more a part of "Canada's DNA."

If you look at many of the country's greatest success stories, he said,

they're completely the product of entrepreneurial spirit and entrepreneurial thinking.

In other words: "Guts and almost a disregard for the things that people say are the roadblocks to success," he said.

The road to success is generally a product of failure along the way, Romoff said, and more people need to be willing to risk that failure.

Kunal Gupta, a 23-year-old University of Waterloo graduate, founder of Impact Group and presi-

"You need entrepreneurship and entrepreneurs when things are going well as much as you need it when things are going bad."

Mark Romoff, president of Ontario Centres of Excellence

dent and CEO of his own mobile solutions company Polar Mobile, says the

tough times ahead are just another opportunity for young entrepreneurs.

"In tough times the true winners, the true, solid companies or ideas and concepts come to the surface," he said.

While bigger companies like Yahoo! and Citibank lay off thousands of employees, young people with great ideas and tons of enthusiasm are still going ahead and starting businesses, he said. "As young people, we thrive on challenge," Gupta said.

Entrepreneurship, however, is risky business and in the event someone's not quite ready to strike out on their own and start their own company on a shoestring, Rivers said it pays to be entrepreneurial in the pursuit of a job.

Figure out what you're passionate about, find companies that are doing it and then figure out what you can do for them.

Pitch yourself, keep pitching and don't give up, he said.



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Many employees don't pay attention to changes in benefits: Online poll

BENEFITS With open enrolment season in full swing at companies nationwide, employees who miss out on benefits may be simply throwing money away.

A new survey by Career-Builder.com reports that nearly a quarter of workers do not pay attention when new, potentially cost-saving benefits are offered by their company.

The survey was conducted among more than 6,100 U.S. workers and more than 3,000 hiring managers and HR professionals between Aug. 21 and Sept. 9.

The price tag for missed benefits can be high. In fact, more than half of employers (52 per cent) reported that missing open enrollment costs workers \$250 or more in out of pocket expenses and 20 percent of employers said it costs workers \$1,000 or

more.

"Open enrollment ensures that eligible employees are not missing out on significant amounts of helpful benefits and wallet friendly programs," said Rosemary Haefner, vice-president of Human Resources for Career-Builder.com.

"In a challenging economy, many people are being prudent about how they can save money by cutting back on exorbitant personal expenses, but also need to be aware of cost-saving benefits at work that are easily available to them."

Haefner offers the following tips to employees to take advantage of benefits savings: Keep benefits on your radar, speak if you have questions about benefits, and be proactive when it comes to your benefits.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



There are a number of factors you need to consider when hiring a lawyer to represent you in court.

Selecting best lawyer for your case

WorkplaceLaw



"LAWYERS ARE THE ONLY PERSONS IN WHOM IGNORANCE OF THE LAW IS NOT PUNISHED."

- JEREMY BENTHAM (1748 - 1832)

How do you win in court? It starts with selecting the proper lawyer. But with countless factors to consider, finding the ideal lawyer to navigate your case is a difficult, if not overwhelming, task. Here are three cautionary tales that I've gleaned from the employment law trenches:

ADVERTISING: A lawyer's search engine rankings have nothing to do with his or her legal skill.

Rather, Internet-based advertising allows lawyers to pay for and then snatch up high rankings on Google and Yahoo that are not indicative of the quality of the lawyer, her firm, or the actual number of visitors to the website.

Similarly, there are no rules limiting lawyers without much experience

in employment law from professing that they practise it, on their websites and in the media — and they do.

For instance, Toronto's Yellow Pages has ads for 32 lawyers who practice "wrongful dismissal." However, many of those same lawyers appeared when I searched for "family lawyers," which wasn't surprising at all.

The reality is that there are few exclusively practicing employment lawyers. Most just dabble in the area, despite advertising otherwise. But employment law is specialized.

Inquire what percentage of the lawyer's time is spent solely on employment law matters — and don't pay for his or her education.

FREE CONSULTATIONS: Some lawyers advertise "free" consultations. These can be a sham.

A free consultation is their opportunity to assess whether they want to take your case but not your opportunity to learn about the risks and costs of proceeding with one.

You then pay for that advice afterwards, so really, your consultation wasn't "free" at all.

"A lawyer's search engine rankings have nothing to do with his or her legal skill."

I recently consulted with a client who came to me seeking a second opinion following a complimentary session with another lawyer.

Their meeting lasted 20 minutes, during which the other lawyer opined that the case was a good one and then had the client pay \$1,500 so he could review the file and write a demand letter.

There was one problem. The employment contract that the client had signed had all but disposed of the case.

The other lawyer hadn't bothered to discuss the contract as a potential problem during their initial meeting (something that most employment lawyers should spot as a matter of course).

By the time the lawyer later discovered the issue, the client had been billed twice the standard fee that most counsel generally charge for an initial meeting.

In other words, this client's "free" consultation had become something

much different. And his admonitory tale is, unfortunately, not an unusual one.

ORAL AGREEMENTS: The biggest problem that most people face with lawyers is their billing practices.

This is because the regulatory bodies that oversee lawyers have few restrictions governing how they charge for their work. As a result, most lawyers are left to their own devices.

However, one common agreement they use, an oral contract, isn't much of an agreement at all. Here, lawyers bill ad hoc, based on any combination of the time they spend on the file or the results obtained.

Where the file requires more work than anticipated, the client pays for the lawyer's time, regardless of the result. But where there is a quick settlement, the client is billed based on percentage without regard to the lawyer's effort.

In effect, the lawyer has it both ways. If asked, a lawyer should predict to the best of his or her ability the potential costs of your case. Then confirm that arrangement in writing.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com.

WHY CMA?

Gerald Chang

Manager, Corporate Development
Sauder Moulding and Millwork

Earning the distinction of being the youngest Manager in his company's 80 year history, Gerald Chang's experience spans from being a Financial Analyst, to a Business Development Manager for a Beijing consulting company to his current position as Manager, Corporate Development with Sauder Moulding and Millwork. Gerald began the **CMA Program** in September 2007.

"Thanks in large part to my experience and my current training in the CMA Program, I recently accepted a promotion and will be using a lot of what I learn as a CMA to enhance our company's leadership development and overall corporate strategy."

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York student charged with Facebook threat

A York University student has been charged by police in Toronto for posting a death threat on Facebook. Police say the accused made threats against York staff and university property in relation to the ongoing strike. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Don't raise red flags with resumé holes

Many potential employers are concerned when they see periods of unemployment on resumé

Resume gaps raise red flags for most employers, a new survey confirms: More than nine out of 10 (93 per cent) executives polled said they'd be concerned about a candidate's fit for a position if his or her resume showed involuntary periods of unemployment.

"In the current economy, employers are aware that people could be out of work through no fault of their own, but resume gaps can still pose a significant obstacle for job candidates," said Dave Willmer, executive director of OfficeTeam, a leading staffing service specializing in the placement of highly skilled administrative professionals.

The survey was developed by OfficeTeam and conducted by an independent research firm. It is based on telephone interviews with 150 randomly selected senior executives at the 1,000 largest companies in the United States.

Executives were asked, "How concerned are you about a candidate's fit for a job when his or her resume shows involuntary employment gaps?" Their responses: 36 per cent indicated they were "very concerned," and 57 per cent were "somewhat concerned."

"Applicants who have lengthy periods of unemployment should focus on quantifying their achievements and emphasizing specific skills and experience," said Willmer.

"Given the concern by hiring managers, job seekers may need to address employment gaps upfront in the cover letter or during interviews."

OfficeTeam offers the following tips to overcome gaps in employment:

PROVIDE AN EXPLANATION Every situation is different. Proactively offer a brief explanation for employment gaps in your

"Applicants who have lengthy periods of unemployment should focus on quantifying their achievements and emphasizing specific skills and experience."

OfficeTeam's
Dave Willmer

cover letter or first interview to alleviate a hiring manager's potential misgivings.

HIGHLIGHT THE POSITIVE Use a functional resume format that draws attention to your achievements, specific skills and strengths, and other compelling aspects of your work history versus dates of employment.

STICK TO THE FACTS If you've been out of work for a while, it can be tempting to stretch the truth about your dates of employment. Resist this urge; not only is it dishonest, it's also easily discovered by prospective employers.

SEEK OUT REFERRALS If your



When working on your resumé after a gap in employment, provide an explanation to alleviate a hiring manager's potential misgivings.

resume doesn't capture all that you can bring to a prospective employer, enlist help from your network of friends, business colleagues and mentors who can recommend you for job openings.

FILL IN THE GAPS If you're unemployed, seek out temporary assignments

while you're looking for a full-time job. A staffing firm can help you identify opportunities.

Another alternative is to offer your expertise to a nonprofit or volunteer organization. You'll build your skills and demonstrate that you've been productive while seeking full-time work.

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WHY CMA?

Jonathan Irwin
General Manager
Paterson Countertops

As General Manager at Paterson Countertops, a family owned company, Jon Irwin's responsibilities cover almost all aspects of the business. Since September 2007, Jon has been enrolled in the **CMA Program**.

"I favoured the CMA designation specifically, as it brings accounting, management, and strategy together, three pillars of any successful business, and an invaluable skill set."

To find out how a CMA designation can benefit your career attend a CMA information session.

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CMA Office, Suite 1055 - 555 Burrard Street

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Demographics changing in the classroom

SUZANNE BOWNESS
for Metro Canada



EDUCATION A few years ago, Valentina Gal might not have been called a typical student. Yet the face of continuing education has so eclipsed the traditional student stereotype that Gal — an older, blind, divorced mother of three grown children who already has a graduate degree in literature — fits right in.

Today Gal takes writing courses, where she says she derives significant benefits

from the fellow students she now calls friends. “You get a lot of different points of view, particularly when you have fellow students from Mauritius, India and Guatemala,” she says.

Gal says these perspectives help her gain insights for her own project to write the experiences of her Ukrainian immigrant parents. Her blindness is almost a secondary thought, and comes up only as she describes the need to print her workshop assignments in Braille.

Anne-Marie Brinsmead, associate program director of arts at Ryerson’s G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education in Toronto, identifies about one-third of students as boomers in their late 40s and 50s and two-thirds as the 18- to 25-year-olds of the “echo” generation.

“Older learners are happy to rub shoulders with younger people. And often 20-somethings will say they learned so much from older students due to their applied work experience.”

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Office elves can deliver some unusual presents

Santa's not the only one delivering presents this holiday season. Nearly eight out of 10 marketing and advertising executives polled said some form of gift giving occurs in their offices.

And creative folks may give the man in red a run for his money when it comes to being innovative. When asked to name the most unusual or unique gifts exchanged in the office, responses ranged from a fully stocked 125-lbs aquarium to personalized bobbleheads.

The national study was developed by The Creative Group, a specialized staffing service providing creative, advertising, marketing and web professionals on a project and full-time basis, and conducted by an independent research firm.

It is based on 250 telephone interviews — 125 with advertising executives randomly selected from the nation's 2,000 largest advertising agencies, and 125 with senior marketing executives randomly selected from the nation's 2,000 largest companies.

“Given the current economy, office gift giving may be toned down this year, but there still will be those who want to spread holiday cheer by giving colleagues tokens of appreciation,” said Megan Slabinski, executive director of The Creative Group.

“Although presents don't have to be expensive, they do need to be thoughtful and appropriate to the work environment.”

Among the questionable gifts cited by survey respondents were a voodoo doll of the boss, and an employee who



Office gifts can range from the heartfelt to the questionable.

liked to give out portraits of himself. Another gift included a wrapped six-pack of beer.

By contrast, some presents showed considerable thought, including a membership to a local art gallery and a ride on a parade float with Santa.

One employee gave Ohio State football helmets to fans of the sports team, and another employee gave out bobbleheads that were replicas of the people receiving them.

Although some thought might have gone into these offerings, it's hard

to say what that thought was put into the person who gave his assistant a case of tuna, or the colleague that gave orange hair extensions as a gift.

Then there were those whose gifts may not have been heartfelt but did get a laugh, like the presentation of The Clapper — that device that turns things on when you clap.

The survey found other laugh-filled office presents included a punching bag that cursed every time it was hit, and a radar detector to a heavy-footed fellow employee.

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Come Walkabout



In Australia, the Aboriginals share a unique tradition, going “walkabout.” The term describes how Aboriginals return to the bush for spiritual replenishment – a time when they re-connect with their traditional way of life, the land and their ancient rites and customs. The urge to

return to the bush is an individual and profoundly personal one and the length of time taken for this spiritual replenishment will vary.

Today, the urge to go walkabout can apply to anyone. It can occur when you feel that there is a disconnect between your heart and your head,

there may be something playing on your mind or you may be feeling stressed out and just need to get away to clear your thoughts and rejuvenate.

You're invited to come walkabout in Australia and explore our vast outback, crystal clear beaches, rainforests, nature and cosmopolitan cities.

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“As an Australian filmmaker I am using my country as a canvas on which to create a metaphor for ‘the faraway’.

It is an exotic place ... where you can be transformed by experience and ultimately by love.



This is universal story-telling ... in one of the last places in the world that still conjures mystery, excitement and romance in people's minds.”

Baz Luhrmann,
Director *Australia*

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Home to the famous Great Barrier Reef, Queensland is a true diving and snorkeling paradise. The World Heritage Centre lists it as the world's largest reef; in fact, its sheer size is so expansive it's the only living organism, which can be seen from outer space.

Sitting off the northeast coast, the Great Barrier Reef is composed of 3,000 individual reefs and coral islands stretching an almost unbelievable 1,500 miles. Within this amazing ecosystem there are over 400 types of coral, 1,500 species of fish, and 4,000 kinds of mollusks, as well as dugongs, more affectionately known as sea cows, and endangered green turtles, among other sea creatures.

Amid the 600 islands, you'll find 25 beautifully placed resorts. To get a Jacques Cousteau-like peek at the reefs, there are expedition-style cruises and dive boats. You can also experience the Reef through day trips to sand islands or pontoons.

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Sailing the Whitsundays, Queensland. A yacht, a beach and no one else in sight make for a perfect romantic escape, and

Australia has the ideal ingredients in the Whitsunday Islands. Stretching along the mid-Queensland coast, the rugged, jigsaw-shaped Whitsundays are the finest cruising waters in the country. Of the 74 islands in the group, most are encircled by bays that make marvellous natural marinas – and exploring the Whitsundays by boat is about as easy as booking a room at one of the island's resorts. Based at Airlie Beach and Hamilton Island, there are many charter specialists that offer yachts to suit just about any budget and level of nautical

know-how. For anyone with some sailing experience, a bareboat charter is the way to go. Despite the name, a bareboat generally comes complete with a well equipped kitchen, a barbecue, stereo system, hot showers and complete safety gear. Guests who are not confident sailors can rent a skipper, or choose a motor cruiser, which are relatively easy to operate. Charts and radios are provided, along with advice on the best anchorages, beaches, diving and fishing spots. For more information, visit www.destinationqueensland.com

Escapes

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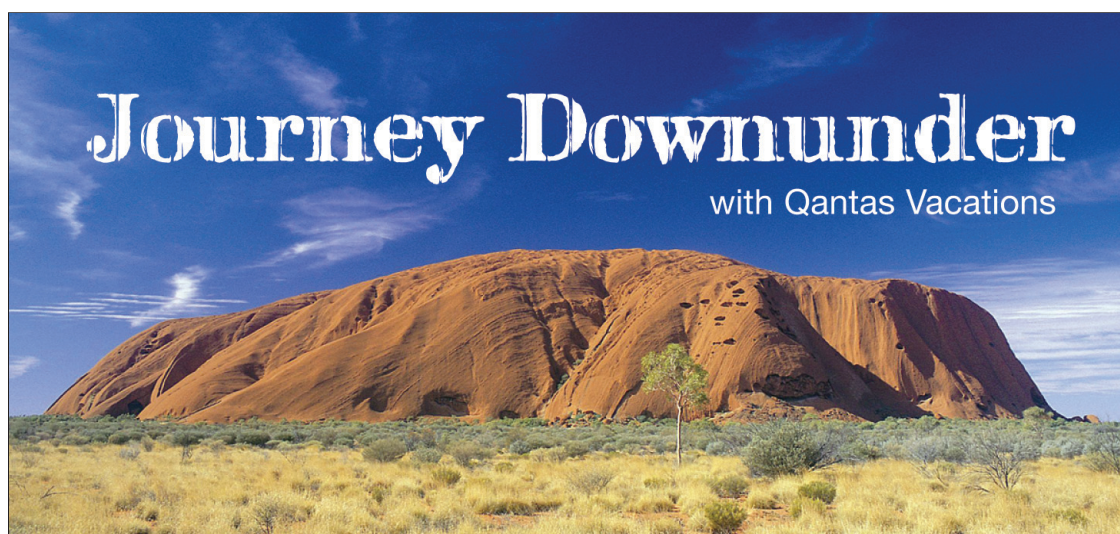


The Northern Territory is the perfect backdrop for a romantic escape. Fiery sunsets, deserted beaches, secluded hideaways and dramatic landscapes – your romantic spirit will be ignited in Australia. Described as "Wild Bush Luxury." Bamurru Plains, located on

the edge of Kakadu, exposes guests to the sights and sounds of this spectacular environment in style and exclusivity. Explore the surrounding area on airboat trips, drives and walks. For more information, visit www.australia.com

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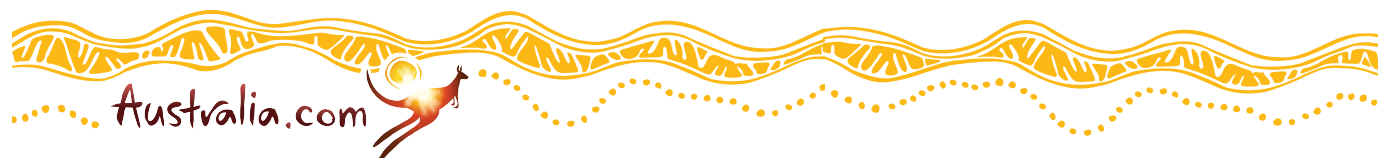
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SCOUTING FOR LOCATIONS

Set on the explosive brink of World War II, *Australia* is the epic tale of one woman's journey to a faraway continent. Starring Nicole Kidman as a buttoned-up English aristocrat who comes to save the land she has inherited and Hugh Jackman as the rough-hewn local who helps her, they embark on a trip together across hundreds of miles of the world's most beautiful, yet unforgiving terrain, only to face the bombing of the city of Darwin.

In this lush telling, the landscape becomes its own character, inspiring viewers to reconnect with their spirit of romance and love of adventure in a way that only Australia can. Shot on location in Darwin, Sydney, the Kimberley region, and Bowen, a coastal town in Queensland, viewers get a sense of the dramatic and rugged landscape, stretches of sparsely populated wilderness, and cities of the day, like Sydney and Darwin.



Bullo River Station

Thought to be the inspiration behind Faraway Downs, the homestead featured in the film, Bullo River Station is in the north west corner of the Northern Territory and home to around 900,000 cattle, a stunning variety of native Australian animals including wallabies and dingoes as well as thousands of migratory birds and massive Boab trees. For more info, visit www.australiasoutback.com

Kununurra

Fertility waters? Nicole Kidman caused quite a stir when she recently named a local waterfall just outside of Kununurra for helping her and other members of the crew in falling pregnant during shooting. Kununurra is an aboriginal word meaning "big water". For more information, visit www.westernaustralia.com



The Kimberley

When cast and crew had a break from shooting in the majestic Kimberley region, they shopped for Argyle diamond and Paspaley Pearls as gifts for friends and family.

Finding E Au



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A great city to wine and dine that special someone, Melbourne boasts great events, a passion for food and wine and a fabulous arts scene. Known as a style-setter, Melbourne is home to a non-stop program of festivals, renowned dining, major art exhibitions and musical extravaganzas. For more information, visit www.visitmelbourne.com

Bowen

Bowen, a sleepy coastal town in northern Queensland was transformed during shooting to become WWII Darwin. After filming, a "Thank you Bowen" concert was played featuring none other than Nicole Kidman's husband, Keith Urban. For more info, visit www.destinationqueensland.com



Sydney

Hugh Jackman was born and grew up in Sydney and Nicole Kidman was raised here. Baz Luhrmann and Catherine Martin were also born in New South Wales, Catherine in Sydney and Baz in Herons Creek, a tiny rural settlement in the northern part of the state. For more information, visit www.sydneyaustralia.com

Tasmania

Australia's island state is known for its accessible wilderness, fresh produce and relaxed lifestyle. You could create your own epic love story on self-drive holiday around Tasmania. For more information, visit www.discovertasmania.com



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Kangaroo Island is also home to Australia's first luxury lodge, Southern Ocean Lodge, which opened in early 2008. Easily accessible by air (30 minutes from Adelaide) and ferry, Kangaroo Island is the ideal place to start your very own Australian adventure. For more information visit southaustralia.com



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Travelers wishing to replicate an *Australia* outback experience can now do so on a three-night South Australian cattle droving tour. Called "Sunsets, Saddles, and Shiraz," this experience is ideal for film fans, adventure seekers, and lovers of the great outdoors. The tour combines the romance of cattle droving with gourmet food and wine, native wildlife, and the stunning scenery of South Australia's Flinders Ranges, the gateway to the Outback.

The adventure begins at Nilpena, a working cattle station on the edge of Lake Torrens, where participants meet the drovers and are provided with horses and equipment necessary for two days in the saddle. A degree of riding experience is required



along with a moderate level of fitness.

During the tour, riders will find themselves immersed in an authentic Australian Outback adventure, working alongside drovers, dining with them

around the campfire, and hearing about their unique lifestyle. Guests will learn to identify animal tracks and native plants while they herd approximately 200 cattle across red desert landscapes and sandy creek beds lined with river gum trees. Packed lunches and billy tea breaks, plus the opportunity to go in search of rare wildlife, such as the shy and elusive yellow-footed rock wallaby, are also included.

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For further information on this tour, please visit www.prairiehotel.com.au and for more information on South Australia, visit www.southaustralia.com

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Just where is our place? It all started back in 1847 when the first vines were planted by the banks of Jacob's Creek, in South Australia's Barossa Valley. Yes it's true - there is a real creek called Jacob's Creek. Coincidentally, there are also vineyards bearing the same name.

The creek has seen a few changes since those first plantings, and we now source our grapes from many of the finest regions in Australia. What hasn't changed is the pride we take in the wines we make.

Jacob's Creek® wines may come from Australia, but they're crafted to be enjoyed wherever you are. For a great experience at your place, we've created recipes specifically to pair with each Jacob's Creek® wine. Here's one to try this Holiday season.



T-Bone Steak with Mushroom Butter Jacob's Creek® Reserve Shiraz - Serves 4

4 T-Bone Steaks

Mushroom Butter:

- 1 cup unsalted butter
- 1 cup Cremini mushrooms, diced
- 1 tablespoon dried Porcini mushrooms, soaked, rinsed and chopped
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- ½ cup white wine
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon fresh chives, chopped
- 1 tablespoon fresh parsley, chopped
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- ½ teaspoon each salt and pepper

Sauté Cremini mushrooms in 2 tablespoons of the butter until soft.

Add Porcini mushrooms along with garlic and sauté a further 1 to 2 minutes. Add the white wine, increase heat and simmer until almost all of the liquid has reduced. Add lemon juice, reduce once again, turn off heat and fold through herbs with mustard, salt and pepper. Allow mixture to cool down to room temperature.

In a food processor, process remaining butter until light and creamy. Add cooled mushroom mixture and pulse so as to keep the mixture rough in texture.

To make your butter log, lay a large piece of foil on a flat surface. Place butter in the centre of the foil in a long line (about 30 cm), leaving a few centimetres of foil at either end. Fold foil

over lengthwise to roll butter into a log, twist ends and refrigerate until firm.

to serve:

Grill or BBQ steaks until done. Slice four 1-cm discs of butter from log and place each onto a steak. Butter discs should melt over steaks as they are being brought to the table. You can always store remaining butter in the freezer for future use.

Serve with a blue cheese salad, baked potatoes and Jacob's Creek® Reserve Shiraz.

For a full range of Jacob's Creek® recipes and pairings, visit www.jacobs-creek.com



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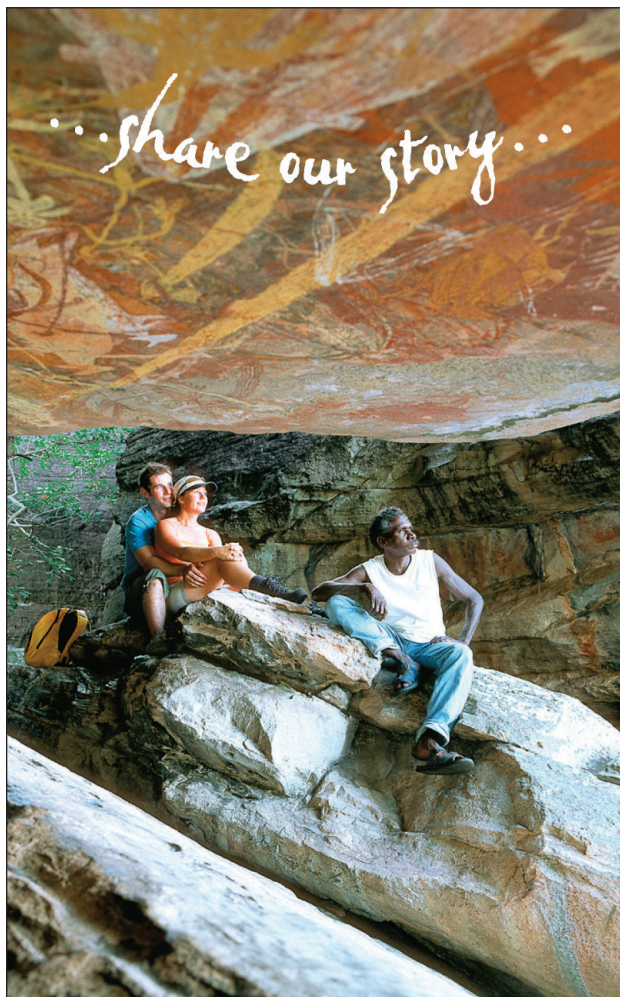


The iPod touch is the funnest iPod ever. You can listen to your music, watch movies and play hundreds of games. Go to iTunes and download exclusive content from "Australia" AND the Set to Screen Podcast Series hosted by Baz Luhrmann. To win your very own iPod touch, visit www.metronews.ca/australia

Arnott's Tim Tams



Australia's favourite biscuits, Tim Tams, are made from two layers of chocolate malted biscuit separated by a light cream filling and coated in a thin layer of chocolate. Aficionados enjoy their Tim Tams using the Tim Tam Slam, a technique that involves biting off opposite corners of the biscuit and using it as a straw to sip a hot beverage such as coffee or tea. Ex-pat Australians and Canadian chocolate lovers are rejoicing that Tim Tams are now available in Canada.



The Art of the Outback

Connect with the oldest living culture on earth or lend an ear to a local for a colorful story of pioneering days gone by. Australia's Northern Territory is a place to discover Australia's cultural heritage first hand and learn ancient Dreamtime stories of the indigenous Aboriginals that will leave you with heartfelt memories and friendships to last a lifetime. Embrace the true spirit of exploration and replenish your spirit as you experience the real outback life in Australia's Northern Territory.

For more information talk to a travel professional.

Visit www.australiasoutback.com



Australia's Outback



Uluru in the Northern Territory is one of Australia's most recognisable natural icons—a huge, rounded sandstone monolith, 9.4 kilometres in circumference, rising to a height of more than 340 metres above the plain. Uluru is a unique and beautiful place that has spiritual and cultural significance to the traditional Indigenous landowners of the area, the Anangu people. One of its most striking features is its apparent ability to 'change colour' as the light plays across it during the course of a day.

One of the best ways to travel to the Red Centre and traverse the Australian outback is on The Ghan. Boarding in Adelaide or Darwin, experience one of the most fascinating great train journeys of the world. Marvel at the spectacular Australian landscapes from fertile countryside surrounding Adelaide to the rusty hues of the Red Centre, onto the tropical splendour of the Top End. The train's emblem, of course, is an Afghan mounted on a camel, tribute to the redoubtable cameleers who, with their plodding beasts

somehow found a way across the red heart of Australia while constructing the overland telegraph line. For more information, visit www.australiasoutback.com



Escapes

The population of Coober Pedy in South Australia's northern Outback is almost as colourful as the opals that have made the town famous. About half the town's 4000 residents, who hail from 50 countries, live underground in 'dug-outs' to escape the 44°C (111°F) heat in summer. In this cosmopolitan mining town, fortunes from the earth can be made overnight, and as a tourist destination it attracts 100,000 visitors every year. Coober Pedy is also home to the only international underground hotel, the Desert Cave Hotel. For more information, visit www.australia.com



In outback Queensland, on the escarpments to the west of the Atherton Tableland you'll find Wrotham Park Lodge. One of Australia's most luxurious outback experiences is

part of a 1.5 million acre (that's twice the size of Luxembourg) working cattle station which is steeped in history. Today, the station carries around 70,000 head of cattle and a team of stockmen, farm hands, helicopter pilots, mechanics, cooks and other staff the run the operation. Stay in one of 10 self-contained guest cottages known as Quarters that are unlike anything the average cowboy is likely to encounter – each spacious, air-conditioned building is equipped with leather armchairs, ensuite bathrooms, king-size beds and a private veranda for drinking in the view over the Mitchell River. For more information, visit www.australia.com

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Sports



"He's a walking train wreck and, unfortunately, people turn their heads to watch a train wreck."

Golfer Stuart Appleby, left, about John Daly, right, on what he believes is the reason for Daly's invitation to the Australian Masters tournament. SOURCE: ESPN



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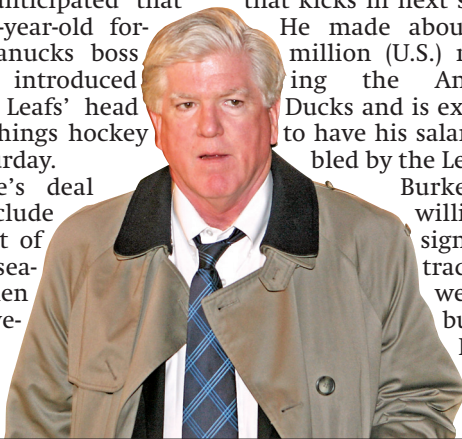
Burke all but signed in T.O.

Brian Burke will have a formal contract offer from the Toronto Maple Leafs in his hands today and he's just a signature away from becoming the team's president and general manager.

Considering that the terms and financial compensation have already been agreed on, acceptance of the deal is a formality and the Burke era in Toronto will begin with that autograph.

It's anticipated that the 53-year-old former Canucks boss will be introduced as the Leafs' head of all things hockey on Saturday.

Burke's deal will include the rest of this season, then a five-year contract



that kicks in next season. He made about \$1.4 million (U.S.) managing the Anaheim Ducks and is expected to have his salary doubled by the Leafs.

Burke was willing to sign a contract last week, but the Leafs dictated

the pace of these negotiations, the bulk of which were conducted mostly by email and telephone between lawyer Gord Kirke, representing the Leafs, and Burke's Vancouver-based lawyer, Peter Gall. Dave Nonis, the former Vancouver GM, is expected to be announced as a new member of the Leafs' front office at the same time as Burke is introduced.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DeAngelis could head for NFL

Don't be surprised if the CFL's top scorer is kicking around the NFL next season.

Sandro DeAngelis, who connected on five of five field-goal attempts to lead the Calgary Stampeders to the Grey Cup last Sunday, has attracted the interest of dozens of NFL scouts, many of whom attended the CFL's championship game in Montreal. DeAngelis, a 27-year-

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old native of Niagara Falls, Ont., scored 217 points to finish atop the CFL in the past season.

• The Los Angeles Dodgers are trying to re-sign free agent **Rafael Furcal**, whom the Blue Jays dearly covet for two roles — leadoff hitter and shortstop. The Jays likely won't outbid the Dodgers, San Francisco Giants or Oakland A's ... if the A's successfully lure Furcal, they'll trade shortstop **Bobby Crosby** — and the Jays already have let Oakland know they're interested. The A's might be willing to pick up part of Crosby's \$5.25-million salary ... I reported here yesterday that **C.C. Sabathia** would sign a \$140-million deal with the Yankees before tomorrow, but the Angels have come in with a late attempt to match the New York offer for the pitching star ... The Jays, meanwhile, continue to pursue slugger **Milton Bradley**, but sources whisper their Plan B for power could be **Ken Griffey Jr.** ... After recently trading **Coco Crisp**, the Boston Red Sox have opened negotiations with outfielder **Rocco Baldelli**, formerly of the Tampa Bay Rays. The Rays likely won't try to retain Baldelli because of his mitochondrial disorder, which often exhausts him during games.

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
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Calgary 6 Los Angeles 2



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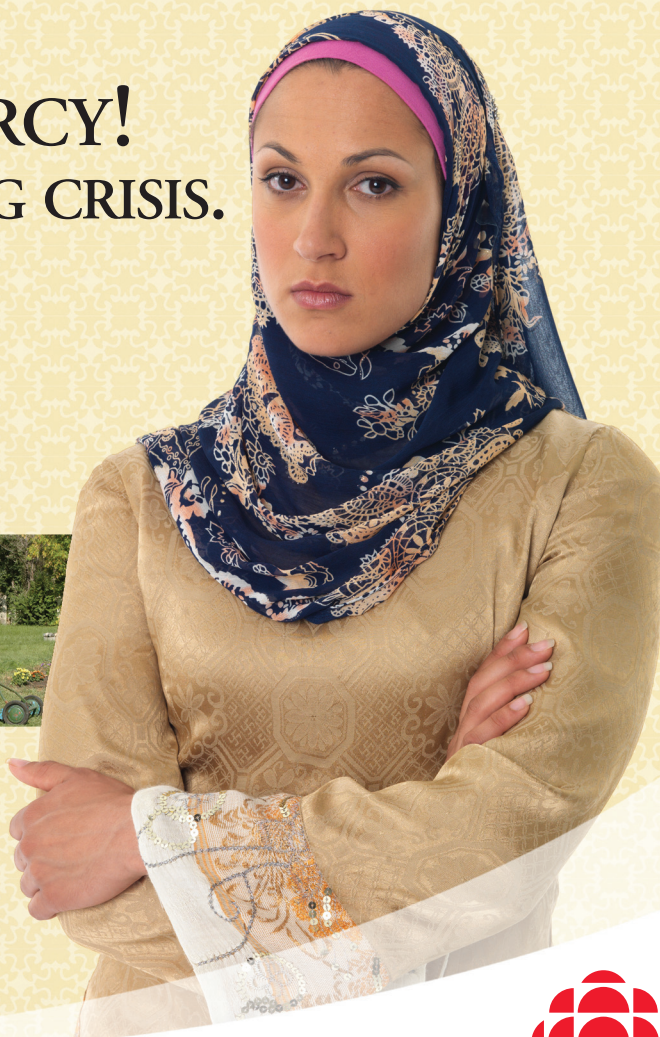
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When Yasir buys Rayyan an old home to flip, the exhibitionist neighbour makes her flip out instead.



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Alexander cut by Redskins

Former NFL MVP Shaun Alexander was released by the Washington Redskins yesterday after getting only 11 carries in five games. Alexander was looking to make a comeback after foot and wrist injuries ruined his last two seasons and prompted the Seattle Seahawks to cut him in April. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

sports **31**

B2ten may have 2010 medal formula

Donors step up where governments have failed Canadian athletes

VANCOUVER
2010 Games

If Helen Upperton's bobsled had wheels, they'd have been spinning.

The promising young pilot was stuck in a rut: fourth at the 2006 Turin Olympics; five fourth-place finishes on the World Cup circuit the following season. She knew her driving was improving, even if the results didn't show it. She also knew she needed a new sled, so she committed herself to doing whatever it took to buy one.

It turned out to be a lot easier than she expected.

That summer she hooked up with an outfit called B2ten, a group of well-heeled Canadian businessmen who have pooled about \$2 million together to provide Olympians with the extras that could produce a medal at the 2010 Vancouver Games — no strings attached. It's not a blank cheque. In fact, the athletes don't get any cash. The program provides serv-



Canadian athletes involved in the B2ten program look for the winning recipe with chef Matthew Schnarch, far right, during a retreat last year.

ices and goods to try to complement what already exists and generally recruits athletes who are on the cusp of an international breakthrough but might be short of resources. "They said, 'You tell us what you need and we'll make sure you have it,'" said world champion speed skater Denny Morrison, a B2ten member. Among the other 16 winter athletes in the program are Olympic moguls champion Jennifer

Heil, Olympic skeleton silver medalist Jeff Pain, Team Canada hockey goaltender Kim St. Pierre, long-track speed skater Christine Nesbitt and short-track speed skater Francois-Louis Tremblay.

Upperton has been one of the major beneficiaries because of the equipment needs in her sport.

B2ten has invested more than \$100,000 in buying her a sled from the Monaco fed-

eration, several sets of steel runners, plus support to help her adapt to the new sled.

The help hasn't stopped there. Upperton said B2ten has provided mentoring, advice on team management and dealing with sports politics, access to top athletic trainers like Scott Livingston of the Montreal Canadiens, osteopaths, sports psychologists — and a lot more. The donors appear to be in it truly to help the athletes, get-

On the web

B2ten

- For more information about the B2ten program that assists Canadian Olympians, visit b2ten.com.

ting nothing tangible in return but a tax receipt.

"There's no quid pro quo, it's not a marketing type thing, our name isn't on helmets or anything like that," said Barry Heck, a Calgary merchant banker who heads up the western investors.

But Heck said they share a feeling that Canada should be doing a lot better on the international stage but is hurt by abysmal resources.

He said they like the fact the organization is private, there's no politics and not a nickel is spent on administration because all the time is donated. "The athletes are not making money doing it; quite the opposite," he said.

"The passion and dedication that they show, I tell you if that doesn't inspire you as

a Canadian or a parent or an individual, I don't know what else can. It really chokes you up. It does."

B2ten happened by accident. It all started with Jenn Heil. Her coach and boyfriend Dominick Gauthier enlisted the help of Montreal businessman J.D. Miller in building a team of experts and financial backers around Heil that helped boost her to Olympic gold at the 2006 Turin Games. Heil lived with the Miller family for the four years leading to the Olympics.

The more money Miller raised through his business connections across the country, the more athletes they added.

Claire Angus Caplan of Toronto and her husband, Mark Caplan, were among those recruited by Miller. They became so enamoured with the character of the women's bobsledders that they're now involved in filming a documentary of their Olympic journey.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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Innovative soft-roader

BRADLEY HORN
for Metro Canada



It was Aesop's Fables, The Crow and the Pitcher, which taught us that, "Necessity is the mother of invention." Case-in-point, Mercedes-Benz and its new-for-2010 GLK-Class compact SUV.

Since its genesis earlier this decade, the premium soft-roader market has grown increasingly crowded with offerings like the BMW X3, Acura RDX and Land Rover LR2.

All the while, M-B's had its nose pressed to the glass, looking on in envy as the competition ran away with the booming segment. Hence the underlying motivation behind Stuttgart's 'invention' of its new GLK.

Mercedes says its fifth SUV, built in Bremen, Germany, slides into the bottom of its lineup, under the M-, R-, GL- and ever-classic G-Class. Though admittedly "a little later than some competitors," the automaker is hoping its trucklet's square jaw and sporty character — combined with its usual high technology and safety features — will make inroads.

Like most of counterparts, the GLK is based on a sedan platform. Here the new gen-

eration C-Class forms the basis, a car voted 2008's Best New Luxury Car by the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC).

Though a might bit taller (ground clearance is 201 mm), the suspension remains a fully independent MacPherson strut/rear multi-link design. Actually, by and large, we've seen every component on GLK somewhere in the Benz lineup before: Drivetrain, chassis, safety systems, etc. That's not necessarily a knock, considering the German-engineered parts bin it comes from.

The GLK strikes an upright pose. The short overhangs and noticeably vertical windscreen are all lifted from the classic Geländewagen, while the angular styling hints at the larger GL-Class (and, dare we say, the old Subaru Forester). Nineteen-inch alloys wearing all-season rubber are standard, with 20s optional.

Also note, countries abroad get an Off-Road Engineering Package with specific stability programs and underbody protection; North Americans won't be offered. We took a GLK off tarmac in and around Schloss Ehreshoven, a castle in Engelskirchen, Germany. Judging by that brief jaunt, and the fact that development work was done in the



Though admittedly "a little later than some competitors," Mercedes-Benz is hoping the GLK's square jaw and sporty character — combined with its usual high technology and safety features — will make inroads.

2010 Mercedes-Benz GLK 350 4Matic

Type: SUV
Price: \$45,000 (est.)
Engine: V6, DOHC, 3.5L
HP: 268

Highlights

- Tall
- Good visibility
- Impressive options

Namibia Desert and the Arctic Circle, even our street-tuned Benz will offer far more off-road ability than most buyers will ever see.

While Europe gets turbodiesels and other petrol propulsion options, Canadian GLKs are exclusively powered by a 3.5-litre, 24-valve V6,



The simplicity and ergonomics of the GLK 350 4Matic's interior are noteworthy.

shared across nearly the entire M-B range (stay tuned though, diesels are still a possibility for Canucks). The engine produces 268 horsepower at 6,000 rpm, 258 lb-ft of torque at 2,400 rpm and nets a 1,588 kg (3,500 lb.) tow rating.

A seven-speed automatic gearbox and a 4Matic permanent all-wheel drive system (again borrowed from the C-Class) are charged with putting power to the pavement.

With the AWD system splitting torque 45:55

front/rear, the transmission in Sport mode (shifted via steering wheel-mounted paddles) and a host of electronic stability and traction aids helping out, the GLK muscles from 0 to 100 km/h in a surprisingly quick 6.7 sec.

The simplicity and ergonomics of the GLK 350 4Matic's interior are noteworthy, but we're definitely not hot on Mercedes' excessive use of plastic.

Being a Benz, technology and safety abound. GLK comes standard with Bluetooth connectivity, iPod integration, rain sensing wipers, a multifunction rake and reach steering wheel.



Read about the iconic Nissan Cube on metronews.ca/auto

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XL), and Escape XLT I4; \$500 on Ranger Super Cab XL; \$500 on Escape XLT; \$450 on Focus Sedan & Coupe (ext. SJ); \$350 on Ranger Regular Cab XL and FE; \$300 on Focus Sedan & Coupe SJ; \$250 on E-Series Club Wag. & Van; \$250 on F150 Super Crew Lariat. †Cash purchase a new 2008 Ford Focus SE 4 Door with automatic transmission / 2009 Ford Fusion SE I4 with automatic transmission / 2008 Ford Escape XLT V6 4x4 / 2009 Ford Flex SEL FWD / 2008 Ford Edge SEL FWD / 2008 Ford Edge SEL AWD for \$4,999/\$2,999/\$2,999/\$2,999 after price adjustment (delivery allowance) of \$4,500/\$1,000/\$500/\$0/\$1000/\$2000 deducted. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after price adjustment deducted. ‡Lease a new 2009 Ford Flex SEL FWD for a monthly payment of \$399 per month based on a lease annual percentage rate of 1.99% and a 48 month lease from Ford Credit to qualified retail lessees, on approved credit. \$3,450 down payment and first month's payment required. 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New Corolla shows class

Toyota engineers continue to improve global mega-seller

Many people are passionate about the Toyota Corolla according to the Corolla's chief engineer, Shinichi Yasui. He says the original engineering maxims that shaped the Corolla back in the mid-1960s are still followed today. And becoming a member of the Corolla engineering group is one of the most prestigious appointments in the company.

They've sold 33 million since its inception, after all. The newest one started with a new development program that sought to combine the best-in-class aspects from each region in the world into a single car. For instance, during final development the Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada (TMMC) team initiated a few changes — including increasing the distance between the accelerator and brake pedals to accommodate a man's winter boot, increasing the size of storage pockets to fit larger-sized North American electronics, and made the cup-holders big enough for an extra-large double-double.

Oh, and the door pockets were re-shaped to fit an ice scraper — photos and samples were sent to Japanese engineers not familiar with our quintessential winter tool. A few other highlights include dual glove boxes, a purse hook, audio systems with auxiliary input jack on all models, and standard air conditioning.

The engineers also added an electric positive temperature coefficient heater system that accelerates the initial warm-up of the cabin when the engine is cold.



Inside, the Toyota Corolla features several improvements including bigger storage pockets and cup-holders.

That's just the inside.

On the outside, the Corolla was restyled to appear more dynamic and upscale. The new Corolla looks leagues better than the old one — but still looks just like a Camry was distilled into a smaller form factor.

The new Corolla is actually 60 mm (2.4 in) wider, 10

mm (0.4-in) longer, and a full 15 mm (0.6 inches) lower than the outgoing model. The new proportions lend the car to better road presence, stability and cabin room.

The car also benefits immensely from the use of ultra-high grade steel reinforcements, plus what Toyota calls their "Global Body Line," an advanced automated assembly system used for Lexus vehicles.

The old Corolla used 40 initial body welds, whereas the new car has more than 130. This helps build body rigidity and quality control from the outset.

The new base 1.8-litre four-cylinder engine produces 132 horsepower at 6,000 rpm, and 128 lb-ft of torque at 4,400 rpm. The power is linear and useable for highway merging, while the torque has been tuned to aid in-town puttering. It's standard-fare

2009 Toyota Corolla

Type: Compact car

Price: \$14,850

Engine: I4, DOHC, 1.8L / I4, DOHC, 2.4L

HP: 126-158

Highlights

- Larger
- Feels mid-size
- Quieter

for CE, LE, and S models — with either a five-speed manual or four-speed automatic transmission.

Returning to the lineup is the XRS model, with a torquey 2.4L 4-cylinder that's a league apart from the original, high-revving XRS featuring the Celica's high-performance motor.

The XRS also gets a few other improvements, like a front strut brace, four-wheel disc brakes, 17-in alloy wheels and vehicle stability

control.

Standard Corollas do with rear drum brakes, but ABS with Electronic Brakeforce Distribution and Brake Assist are standard.

The range starts with the well-equipped CE, complete with roll-up windows. Otherwise, it's about all the car you'd ever need.

Next up, the LE model is very well equipped, and even features automatic climate control and a smart key system — both features normally found on luxury cars.

Above the LE is the S, featuring a few sporty touches a la the outgoing model, like a sporty body kit and rear spoiler. Fully loaded, the XRS completes the lineup.

The entire car has moved nearly a class up, and reflects a mid-size car feel in a compact car.

CARGUIDE STAFF

Ford, Volvo cars lead safety list

WINNERS Seventy-two vehicles have earned the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety's Top Safety Pick award for 2009. This is more than double the number of 2008 recipients and more than three times the number of 2007 winners.

Top Safety Pick recognizes vehicles that do the best job of protecting people in front, side, and rear crashes based on good ratings in Institute tests. Winners also have to have electronic stability control (ESC), which research shows significantly reduces crash risk.

For the first time ever, winners represent every class of vehicle the Institute tests except micro-cars. Most car, minivan, and SUV models, midsize convertibles, and small and large pickups are eligible. Ford and its subsidiary Volvo have 16 winners, including the Ford F-150 large pickup. Thirteen winners are from Honda and its Acura division. The Honda Fit with optional ESC is the first minicar to earn Top Safety Pick.

"Consumers are the biggest winners," says Institute president Adrian Lund. "No matter what kind of vehicle buyers may be considering, now they can walk into just about any dealership and find one that affords the best overall protection in serious crashes."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

For Insurance Institute of Highway Safety's complete list of winners, visit metronews.ca/auto

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Routan makes room for all

JIM ROBINSON
for Metro Canada

According to Volkswagen Canada president and CEO John White, there still is, and will remain, a market for a vehicle that seats seven in comfort. So Volkswagen is launching a seven-seat minivan called the Routan.

Volkswagen Canada's position is that it's interested primarily in Honda Odyssey and Toyota Sienna buyers as they see an opportunity to attract import-minded consumers. With the cachet of being the only German maker in the mix, they feel they have a whole new market to plumb.

The Routan is being built in Windsor on the same line and using the same platform as the Chrysler Town & Country and the Dodge Grand Caravan. Also, partnering with Chrysler means coming to market a lot sooner than trying to develop one in-house, not to mention being much cheaper.

Volkswagen plans to sell 5,500 units a year which would take them well over the 40,000-sales in Canada target.

Essentially, the Routan has crisp styling with the nose drawing heavily from the Tiguan compact crossover.

The seats were made firmer as well as the suspension, in other words, more like a Volkswagen.

There are several minor changes, but what you see is what you get, which is essentially a Chrysler Town & Country, which is not a bad thing.

While the Americans get a choice of three engines, the Canadian Routan comes only with a Chrysler-sourced 4.0-litre, SOHC V6 putting out the same 251 hp and 259 lb/ft of torque as the T&C.

2009 VW Routan

Type: Minivan
Price: \$27,975-\$49,975
Engine: 4.0-litre SOHC V6
HP: 251

Highlights

- Seats seven
- Front-wheel drive
- Plenty of power

In front-drive (all-wheel-drive not available) power goes through a six-speed electronic automatic transmission with sequential shift mode. Fuel consumption is listed at 12.2L/100 km city and 7.9L/100 km highway.

The forward view is commanding and, thankfully, the materials used on the dashboard did not cause a reflection on the huge windshield which is a major failing in many minivans of my experience including the one I currently own.

The 4.0-litre has a lot of poke and the six-speeds mesh so nicely that there is always the right amount of power for conditions.

Canada will get four trim levels: the base Trendline starting at \$27,975; the Comfortline starting at \$33,975; the Highline starting at \$39,975 and the Exe-

cline (as tested here) starting at \$49,975.

Each model has a large number of standard and optional features. Probably the best way to get a deeper look is to go to www.vw.ca and build one for yourself.

While this is classified as a "small" minivan, it is anything but and will fill any standard-size garage. But when it comes to picking a seat, there won't be any quibbling because there is room for all in the Routan.

With all three rows of seats up, there is 930 litres of cargo space behind the third row. Fold the third row seat beneath the cargo floor and there is 2,400 litres.

The third row, by the way, has three positions including tipping it over backwards to have a tailgate party seating. The second row seats either fold or can be taken out completely for even more cargo space.

Standard features in the all-new 2009 Routan include three-zone climate control, CD player with six speakers, dual sliding side doors, front and side curtain airbags, Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS), and Electronic Stabilization Program (ESP).



The interior, along with the suspension, was modified to give a more European feel and flair.



Volkswagen has launched a full, seven-seat 2009 Routan minivan that will be offered in four trim levels. Styling cues take much from current VW products like the Tiguan-esque front treatment.

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Until Feb. 1, 2009, an exhibit of 150 pictures by New York-based photographer Annie Leibovitz will be on display at the National Portrait Gallery. The pictures range from her most celebrated work to intensely private takes. See npg.org.uk/annieleibovitz. **METRO WORLD NEWS**

Travel

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Top 10 trekking vacations

For travellers who enjoy getting away from it all, adventure travel site iexplore.com has come up with a list of the world's top 10 hiking and trekking vacation spots.

1 Annapurna Circuit, Nepal: The 186.5-mile, three-week Annapurna circuit gets you up close to some of the highest mountains in the Himalayas, and is considered the best hike in the world by many.

2 Appalachian Trail: Each year, tens of thousands of people set off to complete the entire length of this 2,175-mile trail that takes months to complete, while thousands of others hike just sections of the trail.

3 Santa Cruz Trek, Peru: It's a four-day, 31-mile hike through meadows and turquoise lakes near the highest peaks outside the Himalayas.

4 Kilimanjaro National Park, Tanzania: Apart from the snow-capped cone of Mount Kilimanjaro, the various routes take you through gorges and past Africa's amazing wildlife.

5 Tour de Mont Blanc, France/Italy/Switzerland: The 106-mile trail near

the highest peak in the Alps traverses three European borders.

6 West Coast Trail, British Columbia: A 75-mile coastal hike in Vancouver Island's pristine wilderness includes views of caves, cliffs, coves, beaches, shipwrecks and much more.

7 Overland Track, Australia: The 80-km Overland Track in Cradle Mountain and Lake St. Clair National Park in Tasmania is often considered Australia's best.

8 Torres del Paine, Chile: Torres del Paine National Park in the far south of Chile is home to two legendary trails: The Loop and the W.

9 John Muir Trail, California: Named after the founder of the Sierra Club, you will traverse Yosemite, Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks. Photographer Ansel Adams would be jealous.

10 Camino de Santiago, Spain: Hiking this 460-mile pilgrimage footpath, a thousand-year-old tradition, leads to cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, the third holiest site in Christianity.

REUTERS



Yotel opens in Amsterdam

Yotel, the airport-based hotel that features "cabins" instead of rooms, has opened at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport. All 57 cabins boast free Wifi, flat screen televisions and waterfall-like showers. To celebrate the opening, "Yotellers" will be offered a free bottle of champagne if they plan a stay before the end of December 2008. For reservations, e-mail customer@yotel.com.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Sleeping in strange places

TheTravelJunkie

Julia Dimon



Next time you're looking for a hotel, why not rest your weary head somewhere a little unusual? From survival-pod hotels in Amsterdam to dog-themed motels in the U.S., there are plenty of strange places out there in which to catch some shut-eye:

DOG BARK PARK INN: Pit stops to kitschy roadside attractions are a staple of any family car trip across America. So if you find yourself passing through Cottonwood, Ida. be sure to stay at the Dog Bark Park Inn, dogbarkparkinn.com, a B & B guesthouse inside the World's Biggest Beagle. This two-story wooden structure, built to look like a dog, offers simple accommodations at \$92 US/night (including breakfast, which thankfully isn't kibble). For a lasting souvenir, check out the gift shop's "chain-saw art," a collection of wooden beagle carvings.

THE CAPSULE INN: If you're claustrophobic, Japan's Capsule Inn, capsuleinn.com, may not be for you. Located in Akihabara, an electronics district of Tokyo, the hotel has 10 floors offering space-efficient sleeps in coffin-like suites. Each capsule has blinds, a TV, radio, alarm clock, lights and air-



The Capsule Hotel, which consists of oil rig survival pods, is located on a canal in Amsterdam.

conditioning, all of which must be controlled while in the sleeping position — the capsule is so small, you can't stand up.

CAPSULE HOTEL: Seems like small spaces are all the rage these days. Amsterdam's Capsule Hotel, capsulehotel.info, offers oil rig survival pods in which to spend the night. Originally built in 1972, these bright orange life rafts are now being used as quirky accommodations. They're a bit of a tight squeeze, but for those who want to get in touch with their inner survivor this sounds like an interesting way to do it.

WOODLYN PARK: This New Zealand complex has an eclectic mix of strange lodging choices. You can sleep in a 1950's Bristol

Freighter Plane, which is said to have been one of the last Allied planes out of Vietnam. You can hop on the The Waitomo Express, a refurbished rail carriage that sleeps six, or you can pretend you're in Bilbo Baggins' Shire, sleeping in an underground Hobbit-esque cottage. Woodlyn Park's newest motel attraction is the Waitanic, a converted Second World War patrol boat. See woodlyn-park.co.nz.

HEMP HOTEL: As the name suggests, hemp is the theme of the decor. The curtains, the bedding, the soap, the shampoo, even the breakfast are all made from hemp. Their Hemple Temple Night Bar serves up hemp ice cream, seeds and a dozen kinds of hemp beer. Only in Amsterdam!

Visit hemp-hotel.com.

KAROSTA PRISON: Just outside Latvia's capital city, tourists pay to be treated like prisoners and sleep overnight in a former military prison. Karosta (an active prison as recently as 1997) is now a controversial tourist attraction. Visitors who want to sleep over should know that guest "rooms" are former prison cells that are moldy, damp and dark. You can sleep on a wooden plank or a dusty single bed. The bathroom is horrendous and smells like it hasn't been cleaned since the Soviet era. Overall, it's a crazy, creepy, comfortless experience. Visit karostascietums.lv.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN; juliadimon.com.

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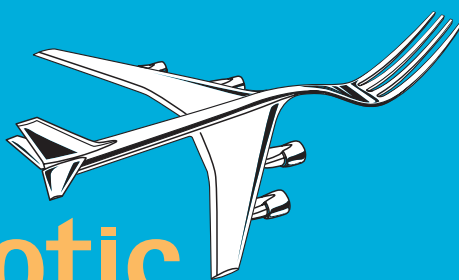


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* No purchase required. This contest runs from November 3, 2008 to December 12, 2008. This contest is open to Canadian residents having reached the legal age of majority in their province of residence at the opening date of the contest. Limit: One entry per person, per email address and per day. Rules and contest entry forms at cantoncanada.com

Frank Langella had to fight to play former U.S. president Richard Nixon in new movie *Frost/Nixon*, because studio bosses wanted to give the role to screen legend Warren Beatty. IMDB.COM

Entertainment



All smiles

Actor Robert Pattinson was reportedly forced to fix his teeth before filming *Twilight* because producers wanted him to have an alluring smile. IMDB.COM

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Walters set to interview Obamas

POLITICS The Barack Obama media tour is making another stop — and at another high-profile place.

A week after the president-elect and first lady-elect Michelle Obama spoke to 60 Minutes, they're sitting down for an interview with ABC's Barbara Walters. It'll air as a one-hour special tonight. ABC said the interview would touch on the transition, the economy, foreign policy and how the family is dealing with the immense change in their lives.

ABC hopes that the Obama interview will be as much of a ratings success as the Obamas' interview with 60 Minutes. That broadcast gave the newsmagazine its best ratings in years. **REUTERS**

Australia long, but worth it

Australia

Director: Baz Luhrmann

Stars: Nicole Kidman, Hugh Jackman

Class: STC

Rating: ●●●●

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

REVIEW There's a lot riding on Australia. For starters, at \$130 million, it's the most expensive Aussie film ever made. And while a rather overblown budget is cause enough to concern director Baz Luhrmann (*Moulin Rouge*), tourism officials

are hoping the film will renew their industry as well.

Luhrmann shouldn't worry so much about that. If nothing else, Australia is a beautifully filmed study of a vast land that — as one character says — has "a strange power." What Luhrmann should fret over is the drawn-out narrative that plays to melodramatic excess.

Set during the outbreak of World War II, Australia features Nicole Kidman as Lady Ashley, widow of a mysteriously murdered cattle ranch owner. When confronted by her husband's rival with a takeover bid, Ashley hires a maverick stockman (Hugh Jackman) and joins him on a massive cattle drive across the outback.

While the movie's not short on romance or adventure (including a suspense-filled cattle stampede), this flick really stands apart from its contemporaries through Luhrmann's careful study of Australia's heritage.

Led by 13-year-old newcomer Brandon Walters, Australia sheds light on the Stolen Generations — Aboriginal children who were removed from their families and placed in missions.

Walters is truly the backbone of this movie playing



While its length may leave you numb, Australia's passion redeems its bulkiness.

Nullah, a mixed-race child who becomes the surrogate son of Ashley. Not only does he provide the film with a stirring breakout performance, but some much-needed cultural

depth as well.

While sitting for the film's 165-minute length may leave you numb down under, Australia's passion redeems its bulkiness; regardless of its strenuous

story, this is still a crusade worth catching.

Visit metronews.ca/movies for screen times and to see the trailers for Australia, Milk, Four Christmases and Transporter 3.

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Kanye, WE GET IT

Rapper Kanye West explains why he blogs in all caps: "I USE ALL CAPS CAUSE I'M LAZY NOT MAD. I TYPE WITH ONE HAND AND HOLD THE PHONE WITH THE OTHER." **E! NEWS ONLINE**



●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Transporter 3 rocks

Transporter 3

Director: Olivier Megaton

Stars: Jason Statham

Class: 14A

Rating: ●●●●½

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada



REVIEW Virtually gone are the days of the vintage Eurotrash flick: those slick late-'60s French/Italian exports that mined popular American genre trappings while grafting their own highly stylized, haute couture informed sensibilities on top.

From the sexually charged sci-fi hijinks of Barbarella to the kinky comic book thrills of Danger: Diabolik, these quintessentially European art/junk pictures bent rules and existed only to thrill.

Which is why the flawed but fun Luc Besson produced Transporter films are so endearing; their single brained intent is to bombard audiences with eyeball spinning action,



Transporter 3 pits Jason Statham as a mercenary against a cabal of greasy international bad guys.

beautifully dressed — and undressed — women, sexy cars and exotic locales while blaring pulsing techno music.

The latest entry in the lucrative but critically mal-

igned franchise, simply called Transporter 3, and once more pits an iron jawed, black belt-sporting mercenary driver Frank Martin against a cabal of greasy, well-tailored inter-

national baddies.

And while the film boasts the same clunky narrative problems and distractingly dubbed European actors as the first two installments, I'm happy to

report that the breathless-paced Transporter makes amends by delivering some of the most delirious action set pieces of this or any other year.

Here, Frank finds himself driving a mysterious package and a strung-out Ukrainian party girl across Eastern Europe against his will. In a kinky plot device, Frank's fate is literally tied to his beloved Audi.

See, his villainous employers have affixed an explosive device to his wrist, ensuring that if he goes 50-feet from the machine, he'll be blown to smithereens. When Frank curls his lip at this, many car-crunching chases and bone breaking martial arts battles follow — much of Statham's fighting is shirtless.

Fuelled by a wildly unhinged sensibility and with tongue lodged firmly in cheek, Transporter 3 flat out rocks and is dynamite, retro-pulp entertainment that should please the legion of James Bond fans who were left cold by Quantum of Solace.

Anne Frank subject of new projects

MOVIES Anne Frank, the Jewish girl whose posthumously published diary documents her experiences hiding during the German occupation of the Netherlands during the Second World War, is the subject of two film projects that are being developed.

Jacqueline van Maarsen's book *My Name Is Anne, She Said*, Anne Frank will be made into a feature film as a joint production of SamFilm and CTM Films BV, to be directed by Ben Verbong.

Separately, Italian International Films is producing *Memories of Anne Frank*, a feature adaptation of Alison Leslie Gold's 1997 book *Memories of Anne Frank: Reflections of a Childhood Friend*.

Alberto Negrin is attached to direct that film, and will adapt the book with Andrea Porporati and Monica Zappelli. **REUTERS**



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Shawn Edwards, FOX-TV

Vince Vaughn

Reese Witherspoon



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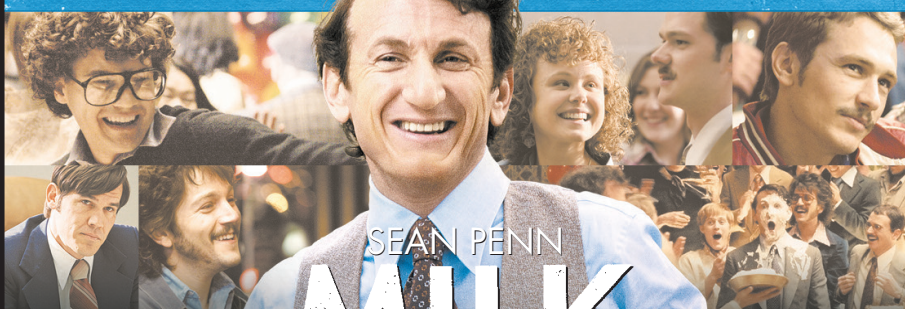
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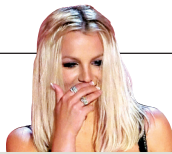
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It's all work and no play for Britney Spears as she prepares for the release of her new album, *Circus*. "I feel like an old person now," the singer says in *Rolling Stone's* next issue, out Friday. "I do! I go to bed at, like, 9:30 every night." **PEOPLE.COM**

Britney's early nights

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

A happy holiday diversion

Four Christmases

Director: Seth Gordon

Stars: Vince Vaughn, Reese Witherspoon

Classification: PG

Rating: ●●●●

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada



With the Halloween horror season behind us, it's time for Hollywood to start trudging out their odes to the most commercial of all holidays.

Four Christmases is the first release to hit screens

and while it has plenty of the Yuletide carols and goopy sentimentality that we expect this time of year, the concept is just subversive enough to make it worth seeing. Sure, this is no future Christmas classic, but it will be a movie that you won't angrily turn off when it starts airing during the holidays.

Vince Vaughn and Reese Witherspoon star as a professional couple who always avoid their families during Christmas and understandably so,

considering that they both come from highly eccentric divorced families (that's four dysfunctional visits per year).

The movie is episodic by design and is predictably inconsistent depending on which family the couple are visiting. But with a stacked cast that includes such names as Robert Duvall, Sissy Spacek, Mary Steenburgen, and Jon Favreau, the hits are more plentiful than the misses. With a little more work this could have been an anti-



Four Christmases is no future classic, but offers more hits than misses.

Christmas classic like *The Ref*. Instead it's little more than a pleasant holiday diversion.

Milk's an excellent source of a powerhouse cast

Milk

Director: Gus Van Sant

Stars: Sean Penn, Josh Brolin

Classification: PG

Rating: ●●●●½

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada



Gus Van Sant's *Milk* is a project that the director has been nurturing for years and proves strong enough to stand alongside what has arguably been the most impressive run of films in the eccentric direc-

tor's career.

The movie is about Harvey Milk, the first openly gay politician elected in the U.S. who was tragically murdered by his colleague Dan White.



Sean Penn stars as Milk and delivers the kind of emotionally draining and utterly truthful performance that is expected of him. The same can be said of Josh Brolin who gives the potentially one-dimensional Dan White a thoroughly believable and complex psychological profile — which shouldn't be particularly surprising given that he just did the same thing with the far more challenging role of George Bush.

While Penn and Brolin are the major standouts, everyone else in the cast — including James Franco, Emile Hirsch, and Alison Pill — seem to understand the socio-cultural importance of the film and deliver excellent performances.

Released mere weeks after the now infamous Prop. 8 campaign in California, this film about arguably the greatest gay rights activist could not be more timely. What's impressive is the way that both Van Sant and screenwriter Dustin Lance Black manage to avoid most of the standard sentimental biopic clichés (with the exception of an unnecessary subplot involving a wheelchair bound fan of Harvey).

Milk might not test the boundaries of narrative filmmaking like the rest of Van Sant's recent work, but it is still an important story told with style and heart that deserves to be seen.

In brief

REALITY TV It looks like America's Next Top Model will be back on the catwalk next season. The CW is close to renewing the Tyra Banks-hosted reality competition series for a 13th cycle to air in fall 2009.

REUTERS

winter wonderland 'tis the season

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Beyonce's childbirth fear

Singer/actress Beyonce has revealed she wants kids — but adds she's still scarred from witnessing the birth of her nephew. "It kind of traumatized me," Beyoncé admits. **PEOPLE.COM**

Silverman braves stormy seas

IntelleVision



FAILING YOUR WAY TO THE TOP: One day there will be a really fantastic glossy magazine article or white-knuckled business book on the career of Ben Silverman and his tenure at NBC. The network, like the rest of the big four, is having a bad year, and after going AWOL for almost a month at the Beijing Olympics while the network suffered painful birthing pangs on their new season, it was expected that Silverman would be a convenient fall guy if things turned out poorly.

Silverman's time as co-head of NBC Entertainment has been anything but smooth; screenwriters went on strike six months after he signed his two-year contract with the



Ben Silverman's time as co-head of NBC Entertainment has been anything but smooth.

company, and it's been all damage control since then. Hollywood, like a medieval village or an isolated Amazon tribe, is a superstitious place, and after a run as poor as this you'd expect that Silverman would be on his way to sacrifice at the altar of the fire god, but as has been pointed out too many times before, putting "show" and "business" together means that laws of physics and basic math are suspended.

Silverman, a Hollywood character of legendary arrogance and abrasive style, has burned bridges and ruffled feathers by

blowing off meetings and spouting bafflebap at the slightest provocation, but he's apparently a master of the deal, and has actually saved the network money while its shows and ratings have continued to tank.

"I could not be more pleased with the job that he's done," NBC CEO Jeff Zucker told the Los Angeles Times. "He's done everything that we've asked of him." Everything includes co-production deals that have slimmed down production costs, and lucrative advertising plugs built into shows like Knight Rider.

Silverman's own projects — the recently-canceled My Own Worst Enemy, and struggling titles like Crusoe and Lipstick Jungle — have fared badly, and NBC remains in last place among the four networks, but Hollywood insiders continue to confirm gobsmacked rumours that his contract will be renewed by the start of the summer, and Katherine Pope, the Universal Media Studio head who oversaw two of the three shows as well as Bionic Woman, will be the scapegoat.

"They call her the black widow," an unnamed source "growled" to the New York Post. "Every program she touches turns to death." Every show except, of course, Heroes, for which Pope was an original producer before being offered the job at Universal. Her contract is also up in June, and it looks like she's already being measured for her pine box.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

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Rosie Live

Remember Carol Burnett? Sonny & Cher? Glen Campbell? Jim Nabors? Former talk show host Rosie O'Donnell attempts to bring back the good old days of the variety show with this new special. She'll do an opening monologue, perform in sketches, introduce musical acts and give out prizes to members of the studio audience; viewers at home also have the chance to win goodies. 8 PM on NBC



Deal or No Deal

Ashley Otte, a hardworking college student from Randolph, Minn., competes in hopes of winning enough money to pay off her student loans and start enjoying college life. But when she mistakenly reveals to Howie that her biggest fear is turkeys, the Banker puts her family in a cage with eight live turkeys. At least there'll be plenty of drumsticks. Viewers at home can play along for a chance to win \$50,000. 9 PM on JOY NBC

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Little Mosque	Sophie (N)	CBC News: the fifth estate	CBC News: The National (N)	(.05) The Hour	
	255	358	6	JOY	E! News	The Insider	Knight Rider (CC)		Deal or No Deal (iTV) (N)	Heidi Klum: THS	News (N)	
	254	-	8	M	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	News (In Mandarin N)		News (In Cantonese N)	News (In Punjabi N)	Metropia	
	250	321	9	CTV	etalk (CC)	Hollywood	You Can Dance		Criminal Minds "52 Pickup"	CSI: NY "The Box" (N) (CC)	News (N)	
	-	-	10	OMNI	Scrubs (CC)	According-Jim	The Practice "The Means"		Third Watch (CC)	The Daily Diya (CC)	New Day	
	252	336	11	GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Bones "The Bone That Blew"		House "Wilson's Heart" (CC)	The Guard "Wake" (CC)	News (N)	
	256	389	12	VI	Instant Star	TMZ (N) (CC)	Monk (CC)		Private Practice (N) (CC)	(.01) Dirty Sexy Money (N)	News (CC)	
	253	359	13	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Rosie Live (Same-day Tape)		Stylista "Clip Show" (N)	I Love Money (CC)	EP Daily	
	-	-	14	CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	Stylista (CC)		Stylista "Clip Show" (N)	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)	
	289	381	15	CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds "52 Pickup"	CSI: NY "The Box" (N) (CC)	News (N)	
	287	379	16	NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Rosie Live (Same-day Tape)		Deal or No Deal (iTV) (N)	Law & Order "Falling" (N)	News (N)	
	602	568	17	W	Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	Grocery	Maxed Out	Supersize vs. Superskinny	She's Got the Look	Style by Jury	
	288	380	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Pushing Daisies (N) (CC)		Private Practice (N) (CC)	(.01) Dirty Sexy Money (N)	KOMO 4 News	
	-	-	19	KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	A Shot in the Dark *** (1964)	Peter Sellers, Elke Sommer.		Seinfeld	Still Standing	Scrubs (CC)
	291	383	20	PBS	Steves Europe	Ready Digital	Monarchy: The Royal Family at Work (N) (CC) (DVS)		Guarding the Queen	Change Your		
	290	382	21	FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Bones "The Bone That Blew"		House "Wilson's Heart" (CC)	News (N) (CC)	Family Guy	
	-	364	22	PBS	Monarchy: The Royal Family	Keeping Up	Being Served	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)	The One, the Only... Groucho		
	296	654	23	SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Punk'd (CC)	South Park	Cheers (CC)	Half & Half	The Insider	Entertainment
	298	653	24	TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Stylista (CC)		Stylista "Clip Show" (N)	KTLL Prime News (CC)	Friends (CC)	Perfect Pullup
	295	651	25	WGN	WGN News	NHL Hockey Chicago Blackhawks at San Jose Sharks. (Live) (CC)			Friends (CC)	Will & Grace	My Wife-Kids	
	297	652	26	WPX	CW11 News at Ten (N) (CC)	Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	Will & Grace	According-Jim	Frasier (CC)	Odd Couple
	199	311	27	STR	News (N)	News	Late Show-Letterman	(.37) Kitchen	Nightmares	Late Late Show		
news	502	390	28	NW	Lords of the Gourd (N) (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National	Lords of the Gourd (CC)	National	
	500	500	29	CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)			Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)	Cooper 360	
sports	407	419	30	RSP	Hockey 2008 ADT Canada Russia Challenge -- Russia vs. WHL. From Swift Current, Sask.				Sportsnet Connected	Sportsnet		
	400	400	31	TSN	NHL Hockey Los Angeles Kings at Edmonton Oilers. (Live) (CC)				SportsCentre	Boxing: Caballero vs. Molitor	SportsCentre	
family	411	457	32	OLN	Word Travels	Globe Guides	Pilot Guides (CC)		Don't Forget Your Passport	Amazing	Ed's Up (CC)	Word Travels
	410	403	33	SCR	Score Tonight		Hardcore Hockey Talk		Final Score	Final Score	Final Score	Final Score
cable variety	417	406	34	SC	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pinks	Pass Time	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Pinks	Wrecked
	416	409	35	GLF	Fútbol Colombiano		Gol TV News		Art of Football	Art of Football	Paid Program	Kings Club
	552	543	36	YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Imp.	Malcolm-Mid.	Fresh Prince	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline
	555	545	37	TEL	George	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show	Wayside		Johnny Test	Futurama	The Critic	Chicken
	557	541	38	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House
	553	546	39	TRE	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie	Beren. Bears	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin
	268	354	40	KNO	Into the Wild	Meerkat	Indian School	Indian School	Commanding Heights	Commanding Heights	Montreal Jazz	Comfy Couch
	575	583	41	CMT	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Ult. Coyote Ugly Search		Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)
	570	580	42	MM	Degrassi	Degrassi	PunchMuch		50 Cent: Money and Power	disBand	Born to Be	Spotlight
	600	564	43	H&G	Million Dollar Listing (CC)		Holmes on Homes (CC)		Mansions	The Stagers	Property	Unsellable
	615	520	44	A&E	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter
	628	584	45	SPKE	The Ultimate Fighter		The Ultimate Fighter		CSI: NY "Officer Blue" (CC)	Star Trek: Voyager (CC)	Deep Space 9	Little People
	521	560	46	TLC	Little People	Little People	Little People	Little People	Little People	Little People	House (CC)	House (CC)
	616	522	47	SHO	Kink in Hair	Kink in Hair	Durham County (CC)		Billable Hours	G-Spot (CC)	Starter Wife (CC)	
	620	523	48	BVO	Arts & Minds	The Achievers	Law & Order "Blood Money"		Without a Trace "Fallout"	Dish Dogs ** (1998) Sean Astin. (CC)		
	601	562	49	SLC	Real Housewives of NYC		Last 10	Bulging Brides	Make It Work ... Out (CC)	Real Housewives of NYC	Trading Sp	
	520	505	50	DIS	Mayday "Desperate Dive"		Daily Planet (CC)		MythBusters Submerged car.	Cash Cab	Destroyed	Mayday (CC)
	522	506	51	HIS	NCIS "Bikini Wax" (CC)		Cities of the Underworld		Captain Cook: Obsession	NCIS "Bikini Wax" (CC)	Crime Stories	
	627	528	52	SPC	Ghost Hunters International		Stargate SG-1 "Brief Candle"		Lost "Three Minutes" (CC)	Star Trek: Deep Space Nine	Star Trek	
	294	650	53	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Seinfeld	Sex and-City	Bad News Bears ** (2005) Billy Bob Thornton. (CC)			
	619	525	54	TROP	Beverly Hills, 90210 (CC)		Reality	What	Family Guy	Seinfeld	'70s Show	Family Guy
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	626	547	56	COM	Air Force	Just for Laughs (CC)		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	House Party	RENO 911!
	320	621	57	CEN	(6:15) The Accidental Witness		The Golden Compass ** (2007)	Nicole Kidman. (CC)		Dexter "About Last Night"	Knocked Up	
	581	566	58	MTV	Dance Life	Dance Life	MTV Live	After	The Hills	Super Sweet	Dance Life	Dance Life
	261	394	59	V	Enigma "The Houdini Code"		Hope Island (CC)		Summer Wine	Dinnerladies	Darling Buds of May (CC)	Paid Program
	-	-	60	MUL	Matchmaker	Mom's-Upset	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino	Hola Que Tal	Patrol World	



My Chemical Romance singer Gerard Way and his wife Lindsey Ballato are expecting a baby due early next summer, his rep confirms to People. **PEOPLE.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Leo fights to keep privacy



GETTY IMAGES

PEOPLE Actor Leonardo DiCaprio has vowed to boycott the paparazzi, dubbing them “disrespectful and dangerous,” imdb.com reports.

DiCaprio admits he’s been fighting to stay away from the limelight since turning into a major Hollywood star, and he’s keen to keep his name out of the press.

“Actually, I’m not in the tabloids anymore. I am sometimes, but I’ve watched the culture change. I’m old hat. And I love it.”

You know what it is with me? This is something I’d like to clarify. I’ve heard people say, ‘Because you hide, it makes you seem ungrateful,’ he says. “The mere fact that these — I’ll use the word piles — are earning money from exploiting my image is the only reason I hide myself or am not a photo-friendly person. I do not like the way they conduct themselves. I think they’re disrespectful and dangerous. The reason I don’t pose or smile or that I seem mad is that I don’t want them to make a living off my private life.”

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Cruise’s family plans

CHILDREN Tom Cruise is keen to expand his family with Katie Holmes, but is waiting until his wife finishes her current stint on Broadway before trying for another baby, imdb.com reports.

Holmes is starring in a new adaptation of Arthur Miller’s *All My Sons* and will be based in New York until the end of her run, which is expected to finish early next year.



Cruise admits the couple, who already have two-year-old daughter Suri, are keen for another baby, but they have to wait until Holmes returns to the family home in California.

“We have already heard she’s pregnant but it’s not true. But yes, we will have more children. I’m saying this, but Kate’s not here! She’s working and we’re enjoying this time right now. It’s very precious, we don’t get this time back,” Cruise says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Simpson wrote in diary to heal

WELL-BEING Jessica Simpson put pen to paper to cure her of the heartbreak following her split from husband Nick Lachey, because writing in her diary was “therapeutic” for the star, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer, who divorced Lachey in 2002 after three years of marriage, found it helpful to keep a journal of her thoughts and feelings.

Simpson later used the emotional entries as inspiration for her music.

“It (writing in a diary) is very, very therapeutic,” she says. “There is a lot about heartbreak, there is a lot about perseverance. I used it as inspiration for my album.”

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Dating authors offer Aniston advice

RELATIONSHIPS Jennifer Aniston has been offered dating advice by the authors of *The Rules*, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Sherrie Schneider, who co-wrote the dating manual with Ellen Fein, says the former *Friends* actress should not have spoken publicly about her summer breakup from John Mayer, and should also keep quiet about her ex-husband Brad Pitt’s relationship with Angelina Jolie.

“Breaking up is never easy, but it doesn’t have to be humiliating,” Schneider said. “Never mention

Brad’s or John Mayer’s name in public. Also, don’t say any thing bad about Brad, like when you said he was missing a sensitivity chip.”

Referring to Aniston’s recent first interview about Jolie, during which she called the actress “uncool” for admitting

ting she had started her relationship with Pitt while he was still married, Schneider added: “Never talk about Angelina or call her ‘uncool,’ even if she was uncool. She does not exist in your world.”

Fein also said Aniston, who recently rekindled her relationship with Mayer, should not wait before broaching the subject of starting a family with the singer.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Brandy devastated by car crash

TRAGEDY Actress/singer Brandy says she was so devastated by her high-speed car crash that killed another woman motorist in Los Angeles two years ago, “there was a point when I didn’t feel like it was OK to live on — because someone else lost their life,” PageSix.com reports.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Paris booted at birthday party

PEOPLE Paris Hilton received a chilly reception at an event in Los Angeles.

The hotel heiress was set to introduce the Pussycat Dolls at a birthday party for designer Christian Audigier’s daughter, Crystal, but when Audigier asked the crowd if they wanted to see Paris, they broke out in a chorus of boos. According to a source at the party, “The entire room — which had just cheered when they

thought Britney Spears was coming — booted loudly. Paris was practically in tears and left without taking the stage.”

NED EHRBAR/METRO WORLD NEWS



No motherhood for Carrie

CAREER Sarah Jessica Parker has promised fans her character Carrie Bradshaw will not become a mother in the *Sex And The City: The Movie* sequel, because it would go against the character’s beliefs, imdb.com reports.

“It doesn’t seem as if that’s going to be a choice she’ll make,” she says. “I don’t know. Michael (Patrick King, director) and I never talk about it. That doesn’t mean that won’t be part of the story. We just haven’t figured it out. It feels a little bit manipulative to toss that into the mix, because she

seems so pointed in a different direction.”

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Butler may not be charged for fight

LEGAL Actor Gerard Butler has been given the chance to resolve his recent fight with a paparazzo without facing criminal charges, imdb.com reports.

Butler stands accused of beating up a photographer who followed him as he left a Los Angeles bar last month.

The snapper was reportedly treated in hospital for the injuries he suffered.

According to TMZ.com, Butler, who has yet to discuss the allegations, has been ordered to attend an informal hearing at the city Attorney’s office, the goal of which is to resolve the issue without a messy court battle.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Winehouse is sent to hospital

HEALTH Singer Amy Winehouse was admitted to a private London hospital on Sunday, her rep tells CNN.

Chris Goodman told the news outlet that medication Winehouse was taking made her ill, and doctors admitted her to the clinic for investigation, People.com reports.

Winehouse previously checked into a London hospital in July after suffering a bad reaction to her medication. But Goodman did not disclose which medications were involved in either case.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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Take Five

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16				17				
18			19				20					
			21		22	23		24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31		32			
33				34				35		36		
37			38		39				40			
41				42		43						
			44		45			46		47	48	49
50	51	52				53	54			55		
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	8		9		2		7	
9								8
		2	3		8	4		
	1		2	4	6		8	
	7						2	
	4		7	5	1		9	
		3	1		5	8		
1								2
	6		4		7		3	

Crossword across

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1 Do sums | 36 A Gershwin |
| 4 Apprehend | 37 Raised |
| 8 Film segment | 39 Pirate |
| 12 Anger | 41 Comic Silverman |
| 13 Medley | 43 Cornfield trespasser |
| 14 Similar to | 44 Scratch |
| 15 Brooks or Torme | 46 Tangle |
| 16 Chair protector | 50 Read quickly |
| 18 Filch | 55 Dinner for Dobbin |
| 20 Corrode | 56 Staffer |
| 21 Open somewhat | 57 "David Copperfield" character |
| 24 Tibet's capital | 58 Swelled head |
| 28 One with lots of four-legged friends? | 59 Banana castoff |
| 32 Satan's specialty | 60 Took to the pool |
| 33 Submachine gun | 61 Chaps |
| 34 Jazz style | |

Crossword down

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1 Intentions | 27 Winged |
| 2 Bob's "The Price Is Right" successor | 28 Taverns |
| 3 Sandwich shop | 29 Pound of poetry |
| 4 Rhinoplasty | 30 Wedding cake feature |
| 5 The whole enchilada | 31 Bellow |
| 6 Mid-afternoon hour on a sundial | 35 Telecast |
| 7 Easy bounding gait | 38 Maiden |
| 8 Dress | 40 Possess |
| 9 Tyler or Ullmann | 42 Possesses |
| 10 White House nickname | 45 Fishing gear |
| 11 Apiece | 47 Attention getter |
| 17 Western st. | 48 Storm |
| 19 Crony | 49 French city |
| 22 Birds, to Brutus | 50 Space |
| 23 Violin's ancestor | 51 Falsehood |
| 25 Tel — | 52 Praise in verse |
| 26 Paddock papa | 53 Solemn promise |
| | 54 Historic time |

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

2	3	7	6	1	4	9	5	8
6	8	4	9	5	7	1	2	3
5	9	1	3	2	8	4	7	6
1	5	2	4	3	6	7	8	9
9	7	3	5	8	1	6	4	2
4	6	8	7	9	2	3	1	5
8	1	6	2	4	3	5	9	7
3	4	9	8	7	5	2	6	1
7	2	5	1	6	9	8	3	4

S	H	O	T		U	N	I	T		L	O	T
E	U	R	O		S	O	R	E		A	D	O
W	E	B	M	A	S	T	E	R		N	O	D
			T	I	R	E		M	A	C	R	O
R	A	Z	O	R		P	I	C	A			
A	T	O	M		P	R	O	T	E	S	T	S
T	O	R		S	H	O	N	E		T	I	P
S	P	O	T	T	I	N	G		J	E	E	R
		A	W	O	L		B	E	R	R	Y	
B	O	S	O	M		C	A	R	T			
U	L	T		A	L	A	B	A	S	T	E	R
F	I	E		C	E	L	L		A	R	E	A
F	O	R		H	O	L	E		M	A	K	E

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar

17-21 min Smart
21-25 min Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Beef Stroganoff

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 1 large red onion
- 1/2 lb (230g) small chestnut mushrooms
- 1 1/4 lb (560g) beef fillet
- 2 tsp (10 mL) fresh green peppercorns in brine
- Salt
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) Dijon mustard
- 1 1/4 cup (300 mL) sour cream
- 8 small drained cocktail gherkins
- A small bunch of chives

METHOD:

- Heat 1 tbsp (15 mL) oil in a large frying pan. Halve, peel, and thinly slice onion, then fry over a moderate heat until slightly softened, about 2 or 3 minutes.
- Meanwhile, clean and halve mushrooms and add to the pan. Increase heat and cook, stirring, for about 5 minutes, until softened and most liquid has evaporated.
- While mushrooms are cooking, slice beef fillet very thinly, then cut across the grain into thin strips.
- When mushrooms are

cooked, put into a large bowl with onion and set aside.

- Add 1 tbsp (15 mL) oil to the pan and increase heat to high. Add half of beef and stir-fry for 2-3 minutes, or until very lightly browned, then remove. Heat remaining oil and cook rest of beef the same way.
- Return onion, mushrooms and first batch of beef with juices to the frying pan. Crush green peppercorns, add to the pan with some salt, and heat through for 1-2 minutes.
- Blend mustard and sour cream together and stir into beef, with gherkins. Heat through gently, without boiling. Trim, rinse, and dry chives, snip over top and serve.

SERVES 4



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A headstrong person misses talking to you. Emotional distress is caused by an unusual amount of problems. Don't give up on yourself.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Falling in love is okay, if you think long and hard first. Pushiness makes for an unsettling situation. Decadent foods are clues to your secret longings.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Be assured that nobody will let you down. A mastermind should not be tangled with. A self-pitying person ignores your friendly smile.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
A discovery takes on greater significance. Satisfaction is guaranteed if you keep a promise. An argumentative stranger tells the truth.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
An unexpected escapade torments your heart. Love will have a deeper meaning. Someone hasn't changed in a significant way.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
All you want to do is have some fun. Be poised when facing a difficult cross-examination. An awesome adventure baffles on-lookers.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Give someone a good reason to stay. A weight problem is spitefully discussed. Bring your life back into focus.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Say goodbye to a domineering woman. A special dream will come true. Take good care of a fragile elder.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Bittersweet memories accompany a departing hero. Curiosity is satisfied by a devoted sweetheart. An expert interferes with tried and true plans.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
An optimist will touch your heart. Prance around with crazy old friends. Stop speculating about how things might have been.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Lack of faith will cause a crash. Being ignored will wreck your hard won serenity. Someone's loyalty is being questioned.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Pleasure is found in new music. Disappointment ends a relationship. Stay where you are for a while.

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